

THE AMERICAN

LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

December

\$2.50

Mr.
Veteran
PAGE 22

IT'S A
WONDERFUL
SEASON

'It's A Wonderful Life'



ERIC J. WILEY



A trusted member of the American Legion family.

Why is Buick LeSabre the Official Car of American Legion Baseball? Because LeSabre delivers peace of mind on the road. And it delivers peace of mind through its financial support of youth baseball. To date, Buick has contributed over \$3 million to the American Legion Baseball program. Support which helps The American Legion's local posts in the development of young people across the country. That's peace of mind. Buick and The American Legion — a winning team. Visit our Web site at <http://www.buick.com> or call 1-800-4A-BUICK.

Peace of mind

LeSabre  by Buick



©1996 GM Corp. All rights reserved. LeSabre is a registered trademark of GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Vol. 141, No. 6

The Magazine for a Strong America

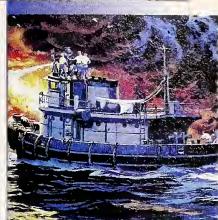
December 1996

ARTICLES

THE POWER OF PRAISE *By Robert McGarvey*

Say something nice, and some nice things happen.

18



18

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE *By Victor M. Parachin*

How and why Frank Capra's first post-war film became a holiday classic.

19



19

MR. VETERAN

G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery's legacy to veterans past, present and future.

22



TIN CAN ODYSSEY *By Kent Wadsworth*

A destroyer's crew set sail to victory and manhood.

24

THE GI BILL OF HEALTH *By Miles Z. Epstein*

The Legion's plan addresses the needs of veterans' families.

26

MIRACLE ON AN UNSILENT NIGHT *By Tom McKenney*

In the heat of combat, two downed fliers are blessed with the promise of peace.

28

THE BOTTOM LINE IS QUALITY CARE

Nat'l. Commander Joe Frank shares with Congress the Legion's vision for VA.

36



22

DEPARTMENTS

BIG ISSUES *Should government phase out Amtrak support?*

10

VETOICE

4

ON DUTY

14

LEGION NEWS

34

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

8

YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

18

VETS

38

WASHINGTON WATCH

12

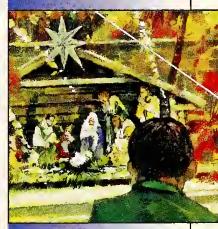
VETERANS UPDATE

32

PARTING SHOTS

52

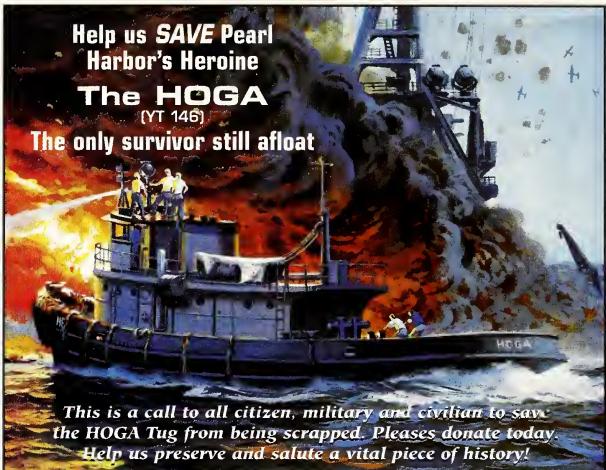
COVER Wonderful: Few films have affirmed our values and our holiday hopes as touchingly as It's A Wonderful Life. Illustration by Eric J.W. Lee.



28

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.9 million members. These wartime veterans, working through nearly 15,000 community-level Posts, dedicate themselves to God and country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youths.





**Help us SAVE Pearl
Harbor's Heroine
The HOGA
(YT 146)**

The only survivor still afloat

*This is a call to all citizen, military and civilian to save the HOGA Tug from being scrapped. Please donate today.
Help us preserve and salute a vital piece of history!*

Name _____

Send your Donation to:

Save the HOGA Committee

The American Legion of Hawaii
612 McCully St., Honolulu, HI 96826
808-955-7797 or FAX 808-946-2025

Address _____

City _____

State Zip _____

M/C VISA Card Number _____

Exp Date _____

Money Order Enclosed Personal Check Enclosed

Revolutionary "2-in-1" **TRIMMER/MOWER!**

SO MUCH EASIER to use than hand-held trimmers OR small-wheels mowers! TRIMS plus MOWS everything from whole lawns (even wet, *without clogging!*) to tough, waist-high grass and weeds with *incredible ease!* Rocks, roots, stumps, etc. do it no harm because it has no steel blades to bend, break or dull. Perfect for use with riding mowers for finish-up trimming and mowing... and for ALL trimming and mowing around vacation homes, hunting camps, etc.

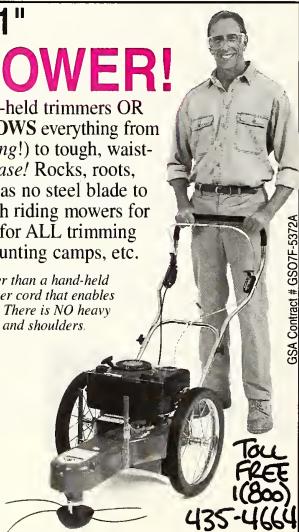
"Your machine is all you say it is. 75% quicker than a hand-held trimmer because of the extra power and heavier cord that enables me to wade right thru heavy grass and weeds. There is NO heavy load to swing back and forth tiring your arms and shoulders. It makes weed wacking 'duck soup'!"

- Tom Lawrence, Somerville, NJ

Why Do
It The
HARD
WAY?



So, WHY HASSE
with hand-held trimmers
or small-wheels mowers?
Please mail coupon
below TODAY for FREE
DETAILS about the
Revolutionary DR®
TRIMMER/MOWER!



TOLL
FREE
(800)
435-4664

YES! Please rush complete FREE
DETAILS of the Revolutionary DR®
TRIMMER/MOWER including prices
and specifications of Manual and
Electric-Starting Models and "Off-
Season" Savings now in effect.

Name _____ AML
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

To: COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS®, Dept. 2023
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491

THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

700 N. Pennsylvania St.
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206
317-630-1200

National Commander
Joseph J. Frank

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
Steve Salerno

Editor

Joe Stutteville

Art Director

Simon Smith

Managing Editor

Robert C. Imler

Executive Editor

Miles Z. Epstein

Assistant Editor

Trent D. McNeely

Assistant Editor

Julie A. Rhoad

Staff Photographer

John Simon

Editorial Administrator

Joan L. Berzins

Publication Design

Caron M. Morales

Production Assistant

Cindy G. Thompson

General Administration

Patricia Marschand

Robyn Black

Advertising Director

Donald B. Thomson

Associate Advertising Manager

Diane Andretti

Advertising Assistant

Cathy Frakes

The American Legion Magazine

P.O. Box 7068

Indianapolis, IN 46207

317-630-1200

Publisher/Advertising Representatives

For Advertising, Inc.

Chicago 312-541-3898

New York 212-725-2106

Los Angeles: 310-841-0280

Detroit: 810-543-0068

Atlanta: 404-252-0968

San Francisco: 415-989-5804

The American Legion Magazine Commission

Millford A. Forrester, Chairman, Greenville, SC; Russell H. Laird, Vice Chairman, Des Moines, IA; James R. Kelley, National Commander's Representative, Wayne, PA; George E. Ballard, Belleville, IL; Samuel Barney, Louisville, KY; O.J. Johnson, Jr., Atlanta, GA; Joseph Chase, Haberso, PA; Donald Conn, South Bend, IN; James W. Conway, Charlton, MA; Bettylou Evans, Laurel, DE; James H. Hall, Hopewell, NJ; Hoy M. Haught, Huntsville, AR; Dennis J. Henkemeyer, Sauk Rapids, MN; Halbert G. Horton, Topeka, KS; Eugene J. Kelley, Savannah, GA; Fred Mitchell, Brewton, AL; J.H. Morris, Baton Rouge, LA; Everett G. Shepard, III, Woodstock, CT; George G. Sinopoli, Fresno, CA; Robert E. Vass Sr., Huntington, WV; Paul T. Woodard, Lacey, WA; Tom C. Smith, Oklahoma City, OK; John W. Richter, Consultant, Brenham, TX

Copyright 1996 by The American Legion

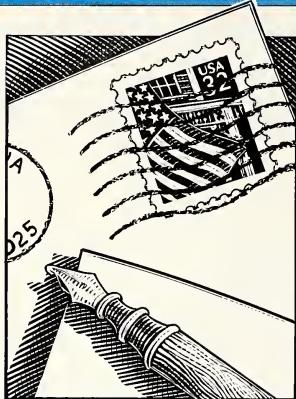
The American Legion (ISSN 0886-1234) is published monthly by The American Legion, 5561 W. 74th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Second-class postage paid at Indianapolis, IN 46268 and at additional mailing offices. Annual non-member subscription \$15 (\$21 Foreign post-sponsor gift subscriptions). \$6: Single copy, \$3. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Internet address: <http://www.legion.org>.

Change of Address: Notify The American Legion, Input Services, P.O. Box 1954, Indianapolis, IN 46206. 317-328-4640. Attach old address label, provide old and new addresses and current membership card number.

To request microfilm copies, please write to University Microfilms, 300 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Canadian Postage and International Publications Mail (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 548321. Re-entered second class mail matter at Manila Central Post office dated December 22, 1991.

Printed in USA

Member Audit Bureau of Circulations



The Campaign

JUST read "The Men Who Would Be President" in the October 1996 issue, and I have one major question. When Clinton responded "I abhor flag burning. My reluctance to support an amendment to the Constitution stems from my respect for the document itself," why did you not ask him why he supports and coddles the special interest groups whose overall goal is banning all private ownership of firearms and rescinding the Second Amendment? If he really respected the Constitution, he would be working with the people who are sworn to uphold the Constitution, who want effective laws to prevent criminals and other undesirables from obtaining firearms while protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens who want effective means of dealing with the crime problem and its causes.

William Roth Jr.
Ocean View, N.J.

As an independent voter and a World War II veteran, I cast my vote for Clinton. I'm the same age as Dole and was fortunate not to be wounded during the conflict. I feel compassion for Dole and his war wounds, but to be brutally honest, he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. He, at least, is still with us while many of my peers are not. On the subject of his decorations: A number of us were also decorated; he is not alone in that arena. Dole has no concrete plans for the betterment of America. He wants a Star Wars defense that will not work (remember

Reagan's?) and a 15 percent tax cut that will not work and place our deficit higher than any moonshot. Too, he is too old; dyed hair does not a young man make.

Dave Saltzburg
Penfield, N.Y.

Undelivered

VETERANS' rights are under attack, as reported in the October article "Postman's Plan Fails to Deliver," not only by minority groups but also by federal agencies. The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act, **HR 3586**, is a step in the right direction, but CEO/PMG Runyon has shown little regard for federal law. Now he is attempting to affect a congressional vote. **HR 3586** is not a postal bill and should not be of interest to Mr. Runyon. The American Legion should urge the removal of Mr. Runyon from office, as well as other bureaucrats who oppose veterans' rights and disregard federal law.

Joe C. Allen
Indianapolis, Ind.

THE Postmaster General not only fails to support veterans' rights, he also has brushed off one veterans' group with a series of lame excuses. I am a Legion member and also a member of the Jewish War Veterans. Some of you might know that 1996 is the JWV's 100th anniversary, which makes it the oldest veterans' organization in the U.S. We have been unsuccessful in persuading the post office to issue a stamp commemorating the JWV's century of service. The year has vanished, but support from other groups might bring the postal organization to see the error of the omission and bring some sort of commemoration of the Jewish War Veterans. The address: Postmaster General, 475 L'Enfant Plaza SW, Washington, DC 20260-2434.

Norman R. Swartz
Lancaster, Ohio

A Wrong to Right

AM approaching my 66th birthday, and the thought of spending the last 43 years in a North Korean POW camp instead of with my wife and family is too painful to imagine—"there but for the grace of God go I." I have

just read an article about Americans still being held in North Korea 43 years after the war's end. How shocking! It should be obvious to all Americans, not just Korean War veterans like me, that our country's leaders, military, executive and congressional, were aware of and permitted this monstrous act.

These young men (now in their 60s) were taken from their homes, their parents, their wives and children to serve, in good faith, their country. To have knowingly and deliberately abandoned them all these years is not merely a blot on our national conscience but an act that constitutes a great sin on the soul of our country—once the paragon of virtue among nations. It is furthermore an insult to all the brave young men and women who have so selflessly and honorably served, fought and died in the service of their country.

May God console the families of these poor men, and may shame and dishonor of the greatest magnitude be brought down on every present government official, military, defense, executive and congressional, if they do not now do all in their power to rectify this heinous deed and return these lost sons who have so honorably earned and so eminently deserve that right.

Charles F. Sherman
Tiverton, R.I.

Quick Cure

DON'T know what Citizens Against Waste has in mind for putting an end to food stamp fraud [*Washington Watch*, October 1996], but I have a simple suggestion which will completely eliminate the "underground currency...opportunists..." Congress needs only to have enough courage to pass the following legislation, a lesson from our private sector. Simply print food stamps with a monthly expiration date. The businesses that cash them would be allowed 15 days into the next month to forward the stamps for payment.

Rev. Denton L. Spencer
Ephrata, Pa.

Let None Falter

HAVE just completed reading the September issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. In my opinion, Please turn page

The Armed Forces Commemorative Society proudly presents
The Purple Heart Tribute Colt .45



HANDSOME DISPLAY CASE

To display and preserve this fine firearm, a glass topped wooden display case is included. Also included is a replica of the Purple Heart medal and a handsome brass plaque suitable for engraving.



The first and most honored combat decoration in America's military history is the Purple Heart. General George Washington established the award in 1782 as a simple piece of cloth cut into the shape of a heart. The distinctive medal we know today was authorized 150 years later, in 1932, on the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth.

Considered to be the most beautiful of all U.S. decorations, the heart-shaped medal bears the silhouette of George Washington and the Washington family coat of arms. It is recognized around the world.

Today, the Purple Heart is awarded to all branches of the military as well as to civilian nationals of the United States, "for military merit as a result of wounds received in action against a hostile foreign force," including international terrorism or military operations while serving as part of a peacekeeping force. Many Purple Hearts are awarded posthumously. Some attest to lifelong scars and lasting pain. All are worn with pride.

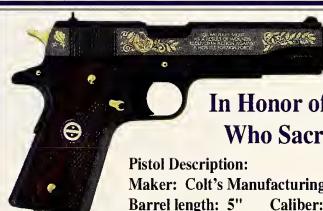
It is with enormous gratitude for the personal sacrifice of America's Armed Forces that the Purple Heart Tribute .45 has been created. Each genuine, functional Colt .45 is individually numbered in a strictly limited edition of only 250.

The design reflects the quiet dignity of the Purple Heart medal. Working with America's finest craftsmen, commissioned especially for this project, each Colt .45 is polished and decorated in 24-karat gold. Both sides of the slide pay tribute to those proud Americans who have served their country. The left side shows the distinctive Purple Heart surrounded by scrolls and oak leaves (the military designation for additional medals awarded), symbolizing the thousands of medals awarded. The right side features the American Flag. The hammer, safety lock, slide stop, mag catch and grip screws are heavily plated in genuine 24-karat gold, dramatically offset by the pistol's black matte finish frame. The checkered rosewood grips are inset with a cloisonné medallion bearing the date the medal was established, 7 August, 1782.

No Finer Tribute

There has never been a finer tribute to those deserving men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who sacrificed life and limb for their country and the cause of freedom.

For the collector, the veteran, as a memorial or tribute, for those who served their country and sacrificed. The Armed Forces Commemorative Society dedicates The Purple Heart Tribute Colt .45. Thousands of Purple Hearts have been awarded. Only 250 individuals will ever own this historic tribute. Reserve yours today and display it proudly.



In Honor of Those Who Sacrificed

Pistol Description:
Maker: Colt's Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Barrel length: 5" Caliber: .45 ACP

The Armed Forces Commemorative Society®

An affiliate of America Remembers®

8428 Old Richfield Road • Mechanicsville, Virginia 23116
I wish to reserve ____ of The Purple Heart Tribute .45, issued in a limited edition of 250 at the issue price of \$1485*. I will receive a display case and a Certificate of Authenticity with my pistol. Thirty day return privilege.

*Virginia residents please add 4 5% sales tax. We will arrange delivery of your pistol through a licensed dealer of your choice.

My deposit of \$285 per pistol is enclosed. I will pay the balance in twelve payments of \$100 per month, no interest or carrying charges.

Charge payment of \$ _____ to: VISA MasterCard AMEX Diners Club Discover

Number _____

Exp. _____

To personalize the brass plaque, please complete the following:

(Name to be engraved - please print)

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

To place your reservation toll-free call 1-800-682-2291.

it is one of the finest, if not the finest, issue you have ever published. If it were at all possible, I would like to see a copy placed in the hands of every federal and state legislator, every federal and state member of the judiciary, all teachers and all of academia's bleeding hearts who are trying to destroy that which is America.

The freedom we enjoy has come about and been kept at a terrible price in the sacrifices of all the men and women of our armed forces. Let none of us ever falter when it comes to preserving our liberty and freedom.

E.S. Schriner
Neligh, Neb.

If You Have to Ask

SINCE you furnished a report on America's most exclusive hotels in the September issue, why is it that you failed to cite tariffs? Any responsible, prospective hotel guest wants to know the bottom line: How much is it going to cost?

Prof. Klaus J. Herrmann
Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Left Out

YOUR series of articles on freedom [September 1996] are enlightening but fail to mention one pertinent fact. Our forefathers in pursuit of freedom deprived 11 million Americans of theirs. I refer, of course, to the Indian nations, and the number wiped off the North American continent.

Never in history has an ethnic group been more abused, mistreated, lied to and cheated than the American Indian. It was often greed, not a love of freedom that motivated our ancestors to settle this country. To ignore this is to tell a half-truth, which is nothing more than a lie.

Charles O. Harrison
North Plainfield, N.J.

Ethical Source?

READ with some interest the article "Promoting Freedom Worldwide," published in the September 1996 issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and written by Elliott Abrams. While the merits of the article may not be in dispute, I remain unmoved by its author.

Is it not the same Elliott Abrams who served in the Reagan White House and, if my memory serves me well, admitted to being "less than truthful" at congressional hearings? Was he later given some kind of pardon by then-President Bush? And now he is president of the Ethics and Public Policy Center? No wonder we have so little faith.

Andrew Bungo
Jonesboro, Ga.

The Stossel Report

JOHN Stossel's piece "When the Feds Step In" (September 1996) is right on. In nearly every instance the White House or the Congress set out to solve problems, they inadvertently cause several more in the process. The executive branch is now writing more law than the legislative branch. And the judiciary dips an oar in constantly.

Chester R. Dreher
Helena, Mont.

I AM disappointed that the Legion printed the whining of John Stossel and his slanted theory that regulations hurt the "honest" manufacturers...that the marketplace will cause their honesty to improve. The manufacturers are too bottom-lined to be honest. Where was their honesty with Agent Orange and its effects on people for generations to come?

Arnold Molotsky
Cinnaminson, N.J.

On Respect

It was great to see letters in the September AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. I do, however, feel the area covered by "Democracy Rediscovered" by Jack Kemp left out one vital point. I feel parental respect is the source of respect. A child who respects his or her parents will respect school, city, state and nation. A child who does not will respect no one.

To my mind, parental respect has been severely undermined by both the school system and society in general. They undermine it in sex education (what has happened to morals since they took over?).

If social programs are doing such a bang-up job (as compared to what parents did a few years back), why are we

having so many problems today?

Outside of this area, Mr. Kemp's analysis is beautiful.

Fred Molzhon
Hampton, Va.

September Splendor

YOUR September issue was the best I have ever read. It should be required reading for schools. Patriotic. Informative. Stimulating. Pure Americana. Splendid job.

Roy Bayne
Suncet, S.C.

My 51 years of membership, I have read at least 600 issues of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. In my opinion, the September 1996 issue has been, by far, the best.

William M. Ryerson
El Paso, Texas

Baseball Banter

I ENJOYED reading Steve Salerno's "A Nation of Sports" (September issue). The author asks: "If you're any kind of baseball fan, how can you not hold in memory an indelible snapshot of Boston catcher Carlton Fisk leaning up and down to impart body English to his dramatic homerun in Game 6 of the 1976 World Series."

That was certainly a memorable homerun, but it came on Oct. 21, 1975, in Game 6 of that World Series. In 1976 the Cincinnati Reds beat the Yankees 4 games to none.

Patrick J. Claxton
Independence, Mo.

Access Denied

IN the September article "The Lure of the Great Outdoors," Gary Turbak never mentioned that changes being forced by environmentalists might make access to those beautiful fields of wildflowers and all those other wonderful things a thing of the past.

Here in Montana, we are slowly but steadily losing these freedoms. Vice President Al Gore has a book out that should scare everyone, and many people want to close many things down.

We believe rules are needed to protect the environment, but things are getting ridiculous.

John and Geneva Lybyer
Libby, Mont. □

Blair

Warren, PA 16366



Men's One-of-a-Kind FLEECE SHIRT

with patterned
sweater insert

Only

\$19.85

BURGUNDY

7 DAY FREE TRIAL

You'll find yourself reaching for this Fleece Shirt from BLAIR again and again... when you want to be comfortable — and stand out from the crowd.

The eye-catching Aztec pattern sweater insert sets our acrylic Fleece Shirt apart from the rest. Add to this a ribbed collar, 3-button placket and ribbed bottom band and cuffs for a truly distinctive look. Machine wash/dry.

Choose from 4 handsome colors and wear-test your selection for a week, FREE. If you aren't totally pleased, send your Fleece Shirt back and owe nothing.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED. ABSOLUTELY! If your Fleece Shirt ever fails to perform to your satisfaction, return it for a full refund or replacement.

SSHSIF3

COCOA

NAVY

FOREST



YES! Please rush my Fleece Shirt from BLAIR for a week's FREE TRIAL. Then I'll send just \$19.85 plus handling and shipping — or return the Shirt at my expense and owe nothing.

TO SAVE EVEN MORE, I've enclosed my payment now so BLAIR pays ALL handling and shipping costs. All my money will be instantly refunded if I'm not pleased.

TO ORDER: 1. Circle your size.

SMALL (34-37)	MEDIUM (38-41)	LARGE (42-44)	X-LARGE (46-48)	2X-LARGE (50-52)	3X-LARGE (54-56)
------------------	-------------------	------------------	--------------------	---------------------	---------------------

2. Check (✓) color wanted.

BURGUNDY	COCOA	NAVY	FOREST
07	01	00	05
0161	ONE FLEECE SHIRT		

CXX-M

Miss Mrs. Mr.

(Please print clearly)

Address _____ Apt. # _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone No. (_____) Credit orders subject to approval SSHSIF3

Made in USA Offer good only in USA

Mail today to: **BLAIR®, WARREN, PA 16366**
QUALITY AND VALUE SINCE 1910

SSHSIF3

Detach here and mail today!



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Nat'l Cmdr.
Joseph J. Frank

Opportunity
opened by
faith and
freedom is
the season's
best gift.



A Wonderful Life

MAGINE all the presents you would love to see under your Christmas tree or in your stocking. Picture in your mind the gifts you might want for Hanukkah, pleasant surprises for those special candle-lighting evenings.

Whatever holiday you celebrate at this time of year, gift-giving is always on everyone's minds long before the special days arrive. The holidays inspire the imaginations of all ages. And for Legionnaires in particular, two memorable gifts—one of celluloid and genius, the other of steel-embodied courage, both of the same nostalgic era—uplift us this season.

In the classic 1946 Christmas film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey, an average, upstanding American portrayed by Jimmy Stewart, is rescued from suicidal despair by an angel trying to earn his wings. In the process, the angel shows Bailey and the audience that being able to live an honorable, decent life is the highest calling of all—and that so living confers great gifts on the family, friends and community of those who do. In the movie, the beneficiaries of Bailey's own kindness chipped in to save his business because the holiday season had opened their minds and hearts.

It's a Wonderful Life is an inspiring chronicle of the triumph of decency in an American community, and the good works of The American Legion renew that triumph daily. Legionnaires help real-life George Baileys when no one else can.

Often, a family in need has kept its home thanks to Legion volunteers and donations. The Legion has saved other families with financial assistance when a husband or wife is deployed to serve our country. As you read this, Posts are gathering toys for children who wouldn't otherwise be on Santa's list, thus bringing unexpected happiness to good Americans who are down on their luck. As George Bailey learned, the biggest smiles sometimes are found in the littlest things.

Of course, some gifts are a bit larger; the one I have in mind dates to 1944, measures 887 feet in length, weighs some 45,000 tons, and brings a special smile to the face of a

certain National Commander from Missouri.

I refer to the Navy's present to Hawaii this year. If you're guessing that it's the classic battleship, *USS Missouri*—named, of course, for my home state—you're absolutely right. Thanks in part to The American Legion's quiet endorsement of an honorable retirement, the ship on which Gen. Douglas MacArthur accepted the Japanese surrender has found a home.

"After intense study, the Secretary of the Navy determined that it is in the nation's best interest to make this historic ship available to the *USS Missouri* Association, Honolulu, Hawaii," says Navy Capt. Jay M. Cohen, deputy chief of legislative affairs. The ship will open as a museum in 1998.

If there's a downbeat note here, it's that not everyone shares in the celebration of such wholesome events, nor even in the basic commitment we Legionnaires have to country. The holiday spirit can be tough to maintain with so many forces conspiring to tell us how bad things are. TV news is an endless tribute to violence, while daytime talk shows portray humanity at its worst.

Then there are the artists who, instead of helping us see the world we want to see, prefer to cash in on the shock value of offensive and tasteless creations.

Consider the Phoenix Art Museum's recent exhibit, *Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art*. It featured a U.S. Flag in a toilet, a pseudo-flag made of human hair and skin, and another "work of art" that required people to walk over the flag and write their feelings in a book.

Either for profit or ill will, many wish you to lose faith in America, to feel guilty about our prosperity, basic decency and rule of law. These individuals seek to erode the values we all hold dear.

Do not let them.

I believe that being American and enjoying every opportunity citizenship has to offer constitutes the greatest gift of all. Faith in that ideal is what I want renewed for the holiday season.

For there is nothing for America to feel guilty about. The freedom we have and the sacrifices that earned it are gifts that allow us to pursue "a wonderful life." □

As
Heard On
Paul Harvey



"After three back surgeries...I thought I would never again have a good night's sleep. Thanks to Select Comfort, I can now look forward to going to bed."

—Conrad H., Graham, TX



Patented
Air Chamber
Design!

Why Back Pain Sufferers Sleep Better On Air!

"I have major back problems, and have tried all types of mattresses, including the most expensive waterbed. Select Comfort gave me the best night's sleep I have had in years."

—James C., Moss Point, MS

The SELECT COMFORT® sleep system. It's not just a better mattress, but a better way to sleep. Even back pain sufferers can sleep more comfortably!

The Select Comfort Sleep System doesn't rely on springs or water, but on a cushion of air. Air gently contours to your body's shape, reducing uncomfortable pressure points, and tests show it also helps properly support your back and spine.



The Mattress with Easy Push Button Firmness Control!



SELECT COMFORT® sleep systems comfortably contour to your body, properly support your back and spine, and reduce pressure points.



Metal coil mattresses can create uncomfortable pressure points and provide uneven support over time.

TRY IT FOR 90 NIGHTS!

We're so sure you'll sleep better on air, you can take up to three months to decide, or your money back. You've got to sleep on it to believe it!

For a FREE VIDEO and Brochure, call now!

1-800-831-1211
Ext. 7000

Yes! Please rush me a FREE Video and Brochure.



Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____

Ext. 7000



SELECT COMFORT®

Mail to: **Select Comfort Direct Corporation**
6105 Trenton Lane North, Minneapolis, MN 55442

Should government phase out Amtrak support?

Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.)**YES**

Congress excels at creating federal programs based on good intentions rather than sound economic sense and for which the American tax dollar becomes their lifeline for survival. Amtrak is a perfect example. Created in 1970 with a one-time grant of \$40 million, it was to be a two-year, government-assisted program that would operate independently and self-sufficiently. The reality? Amtrak has cost taxpayers over \$15 billion since 1970.

One could make the argument that in the 1980s Amtrak wasn't too costly to the taxpayer. That is true, because instead of performing routine maintenance, it neglected deteriorating trains. Amtrak didn't even spend enough money on necessary capital improvements to maintain its lines. Amtrak cars are old, too. By 1995, 23 percent of Amtrak's cars were over 40 years old, and 70 percent of the cars were almost 20 years old. With shoddy tracks, old cars and several high-profile accidents, people came to question the safety of Amtrak.

So, is the answer to cease all federal funding of Amtrak immediately? I don't think so. My bill provides for a phase-out of federal funding for Amtrak by 2002. We've been throwing money at the problem for 25 years, and it obviously has not worked. We need to bring Amtrak back to what it was originally intended to be in 1970.

Let's reform Amtrak in a way that will help it instead of furthering its deterioration. Take the federal government out of the equation.

Now we are giving Amtrak a chance to survive. In 1994, Amtrak had a \$428 million shortfall, cut back almost 20 percent of its miles, and laid off 2,000 employees. In 1995, the deficit was \$404 million, and for 1996 it will probably be about \$383 million.

Like any business, Amtrak needs to start with a small, efficient and reliable base. It needs to show that Amtrak offers a safe, cost-effective and pleasant alternative. But until Amtrak gets off the government dole, Congress will continue to try to mandate how and where Amtrak should operate. In that case, Amtrak will never survive. □

Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D-Del.)**NO**

Americans are a mobile people. Our personal freedom and the efficiency of our economy owe a lot to our country's modern, diversified transportation system.

Our federal government has long recognized the need to maintain this mix, to keep a full spectrum of transportation options available. In this mix, intercity passenger rail—the Amtrak system—is treated exactly the same way as other parts of the system: It receives some federal money because it serves an important function for everyone.

If we ask the question: "Should Amtrak Be Privatized?" my answer is it should be self-sufficient to the same extent as that of our cars and airlines. These other important parts of our transportation system also receive support from our national government.

Every advanced industrial nation in the world—in Europe, or Japan, for example—provides public support for its passenger rail system, chiefly by supporting essential capital investments.

Amtrak is a national rail system, but it provides most of its service along the East and West coasts where population density is high. There, the benefits of Amtrak are tremendous.

Completion of Amtrak's Northeast Corridor improvements—a national investment in making existing tracks straight and strong enough to carry up-to-date high-speed rail—will take an estimated 324,000 drivers off the highways. That will reduce traffic congestion and air pollution that annually cost our country tens of billions of dollars.

This national investment will make it possible for Amtrak to earn up to \$150 million a year operating a high-speed rail system.

It will more than pay for itself.

Like the passenger rail system in every other country in the world, Amtrak deserves that kind of capital investment to become self-sufficient. An ongoing capital investment for Amtrak is an investment in a complete, modern transportation system that our economy needs and our citizens deserve. □

Your Opinions Count, Too.

Senators and representatives are interested in constituent viewpoints. You may express your views by writing The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, or The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. You may call the U.S. Senate at (202) 224-3121; the House at (202) 225-3121.



GE Capital Assurance



*Me and the
boys at the lake
6-13-58*



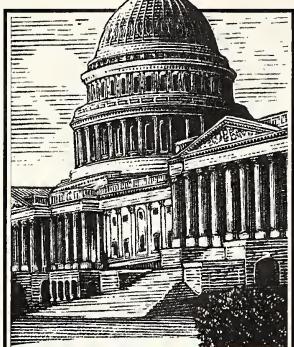
I will be their role model, not their burden.

We all aspire to be self-reliant. Unfortunately, 2 out of every 5 people over age 65 are expected to spend time in a nursing home. That's why GE Capital Assurance offers long term care insurance. It's a surprisingly affordable way to guarantee yourself access to higher-quality home care and better nursing homes, without having to rely on your life savings or Medicaid. Call 1-800-992-3444 or ask a long term care specialist about the plans people have trusted for more than 20 years.

We bring good things to life.

A GE Capital Services Company

© 1996 GE Capital Assurance. Coverage in New York is underwritten by GE Capital Life Assurance Company of New York.



By Cliff Kincaid

Russian to Judgment

DR. Vil Mirzayanov says he's been largely ignored over the years as he makes the case that American Gulf War veterans were exposed to chemical weapons, quite possibly of Russian origin.

Mirzayanov, a former Soviet scientist who fled to the United States in March 1995, is troubled by the failure of the U.S. government to seek his expertise.

"They don't want my help," he told THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE. "They are very arrogant and irresponsible."

Mirzayanov's knowledge of the Soviet chemical/biological weapons program and its possible link to Gulf War Syndrome was first discussed in the February 1995 AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE article, *Russia's Dirty Chemical Secret*.

"I am on the side of all American veterans," he says. "I'm sure they were exposed" to chemical weapons. He says 90 percent of the symptoms of Gulf War Syndrome can be attributed to the sort of chemical weapons developed by the former Soviet Union and its allies.

However, the former Russian researcher warns that it's difficult to develop gadgets to detect some of these chemicals.

In a laboratory, these agents can be isolated. On the battlefield, he says, it's next to impossible.

Sacrificed to Art?

PATSY Ann Byers might have the answer to gratuitous violence in movies: She's suing the filmmaker. Her first courtroom target is Oliver Stone, who produced the anti-military epic, *Born on the Fourth of July*. Byers asserts that Stone's movie *Natural Born Killers* inspired brutal attacks by two teenagers that left her paralyzed and another man, Ben Savage, dead. The teenagers admit watching Stone's gory film about two serial killers before heading out on their spree.

Pop novelist John Grisham has taken up Byers's cause, saying a case can be made that "there exists a direct causal link" between the film and the real-life violence. Calling the film "repulsive" and "wretched," Grisham hopes the suit will produce a "large verdict" against Stone.

Denying the charges, Stone has released an even more explicitly violent video of the film showing a chain saw massacre and a decapitation. Stone huffs that the movie was meant as a parody of media violence—and he fired back at movies based on Grisham novels, calling them "total lies."

Rasor's Edge

SERGEANT First Class Edward B. Rasor hasn't been told to wear a U.N. patch or report to a U.N. commander. But he wants out anyway, citing constitutional objections to the Army's growing involvement in U.N. military operations. The case has the Army tied up in legal knots.

Rasor, based at Ft. Bragg, says he got turned off after reading an April 1995 article in *Special Warfare*, the Professional Bulletin of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, in which the Army is referred to as a tool of "global reconstruction" in a world dominated by the U.N. The case of Michael New, the Army enlisted man court-martialed for refusing to serve the U.N., convinced Rasor that he didn't want to "be all you can be" in the new Army.

He requested an honorable discharge last March, and his commander approved it. The process normally takes only a few months. But this case,

which could set a precedent, appears headed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense. "This decision has far-reaching impact," noted one Army source.

Anxious to get the matter resolved, Rasor has filed a Freedom of Information Act request for his own personnel file to find out why the case got bogged down.

Oh, That Front!

WITH Bosnia getting most of the attention, who can remember the several hundred U.S. troops in Macedonia on the southern border of Serbia? Operation Able Sentry, in which they serve, is said to be a foreign policy success in a safe and secure area. But one journalist found border incidents common and American soldiers at risk in an operation never approved by Congress.

Reporter Richard Haverinen says he was "threatened and intimidated" and detained for six hours by officers running Able Sentry because he wanted to report on clashes with Serbian soldiers. Haverinen, a civilian journalist employed by the Army, has sworn an affidavit about his treatment and fears retaliation for speaking out.

Meanwhile, a U.N. newsletter about the deployment quotes the Finnish commander, Brig. Gen. Juha Engstrom, as saying there were 30 border incidents in 1995 alone.

High on Peace

THAT temporary "peace" in the Balkans has brought renewed drug trafficking through Bosnia. The Drug Enforcement Administration intelligence division predicted this in August [See August Washington Watch].

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gelbard confirms the problem, having traveled to Bosnia to investigate a Balkan route that carries cocaine, heroin and marijuana to Europe and the United States. Gelbard also promised to look into the case of an American member of the International Police Task Force, former Miami police officer Ron Stubblefield, who was threatened with expulsion from Bosnia for speaking to the press about the drug problem. □

Limited Advance Striking...

WORLD'S FIRST \$100 SILVER PROOF

Shown smaller than actual size of 6" x 2-5/8".



*The Washington Mint Announces the Historic
Striking of an Extraordinary Silver Proof
—the New United States \$100 Bill Struck in Pure
Silver Bullion — Advance Price \$99*



Reverse Side

The Washington Mint announces the limited advance mining of a milestone in silver proofs – the WORLD'S FIRST \$100 Silver Proof.

This extraordinary piece of pure silver bullion has a surface area that exceeds 30 square inches, and it contains more than FOUR OUNCES OF PURE SILVER BULLION.

And NOW, during a limited advance strike period, the VERY FIRST \$100 Silver Proofs for 1997 are available at a special discount price – only \$99!

20 YEARS IN THE MAKING

The 1997 Quarter-Pound Silver Proof is an exquisite adaptation of the United States Treasury's new \$100 Federal Reserve Note. It took the Treasury unit over 20 years to create its first new \$100 bill design since 1928. Their efforts have created the most striking note of the century.

Best of all, this stunning Silver Proof is even more beautiful than the original, because it's struck in precious silver bullion!

UNPRECEDENTED WEIGHT

The Quarter-Pound Silver Proof combines unprecedented weight with extraordinary dimension – it is a landmark in proof minting.

The specifications for this colossal metallic proof are unparalleled. Each one:

- Is Individually Struck from Pure .999 Silver Bullion
- Weighs Over One Quarter-Pound (4 troy ounces)
- Has a Surface Area That Exceeds 30 Inches
- Contains 124.41 Grams (1,920 grains) of Pure Silver
- Is Individually Registered and Numbered

And only 100,000 Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs will be struck for 1997.

ADVANCE STRIKE DISCOUNT

The price for the 1997 Quarter-Pound Silver Proof will be set at \$125 per proof.

HOWEVER, IF YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW, YOU CAN ACQUIRE THIS GIANT SILVER PROOF AT THE SPECIAL ADVANCE STRIKE DISCOUNT PRICE—ONLY \$99. NOTE TO COLLECTORS: IF YOU PLACE YOUR ORDER FOR THE QUARTER-POUND SILVER PROOF WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS, IT WILL BE PROCESSED IMMEDIATELY, AND THE

EARLIEST ORDERS WILL RECEIVE THE LOWEST REGISTRATION NUMBERS.

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

Substantial additional discounts are available for serious collectors who wish to acquire more than one of these exquisite silver proofs. You can order:

THREE Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs for \$289.

FIVE Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs for \$469.

TEN Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs for \$889.

There is a limit of ten Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs per order, and all orders are subject to acceptance by The Washington Mint, LLC™ Total charges for shipping, handling and insurance are limited to \$9.50 per order.

ONLY 100,000 AVAILABLE

The Washington Mint will strike only 100,000 Quarter-Pound Silver Proofs for 1997. And because every single Silver Proof struck in 1996 was sold, oversubscription for the 1997 edition is a virtual certainty.

BEGINNING TODAY, TELEPHONE ORDERS ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON A STRICT FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ACCORDING TO THE TIME AND DATE OF THE ORDER.

CUSTOMERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SECURE THEIR RESERVATIONS IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING TOLL-FREE:

1-800-926-MINT

Ext. 36357 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

A major credit card is necessary to secure your reservation, and The Washington Mint fully guarantees satisfaction with a money-back policy for a full 60 days.

The Washington Mint, LLC™

Since 1981, The Washington Mint has procured rare coins, secured bullion and struck medallions for the American numismatic public as an independent private mint, not affiliated with the United States Government. This independence provides the cornerstone for our commitment to excellence in both product and service, and most importantly, it guarantees to our customers essential rights and complete satisfaction.



HARRIED AIR FORCE

W

ITH operations under way in Bosnia, northern and southern Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and exercises going on around the world, the Air Force might be the busiest service.

And the pace of deployments is beginning to worry senior Air Force brass.

In 1993, the Air Force sent 29,000 personnel on deployments. This year's number is expected to be 63,000. And as deployments more than doubled, the Air Force ranks shrank 13 percent, meaning fewer airmen are doing more.

Commanders fret that the rigorous pace of operations will erode readiness, degrade the quality of life and ultimately hurt recruiting and retention.

Gen. Ronald Fogelman, Air Force chief of staff, ordered an overhaul of the service's deployment system so deployments are spread more evenly among Air Force members—active and reserve.

In 1994 Fogelman said no Air Force personnel should be deployed more than 120 days a year. So far the goal remains elusive.

MANAGED MEDICINE

DESPITE criticism from one of its top doctors, the military won't abandon Tri-Care. "We believe managed care is the right way to go," a senior medical official affirms.

The rally to Tri-Care's defense follows a broadside from Lt. Gen. Alcide LaNoue, the Army's surgeon general. A few weeks before he retired after 38 years as an Army physician, LaNoue faulted Tri-Care for handing too much authority to civilian corporations that he said care as much for profits as for patients.

"One of the reasons I stayed in the Army so long is that the military medicine departments are nonprofit organizations.... We do everything that we feel we can afford to do on behalf of the patient," LaNoue said.

Under Tri-Care, profit-oriented corporations regulate military medicine, from how often patients see doctors to how much is spent on treatments. Tri-Care charges retirees up to \$460 a year for access to care that used to be free. The long-standing philosophy that the patient's needs are paramount "has disintegrated," LaNoue said.

But Lt. Gen. Edgar Anderson, Air Force surgeon general, defends Tri-Care as essential in today's climate of spiraling medical costs, adding that the program imposes fiscal responsibility. Without Tri-Care, "we would provide less care with the same resources."

HELPING PEOPLE SERVING AMERICA

BECAUSE you are on duty for America, The American Legion is on duty for you.

To find out more about us and to join our ranks, write:

The American Legion
Internal Affairs
(Membership)
PO Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

ARMS ALARM

T

ODAY the military is as ready as it ever has been, but inadequate weapons budgets threaten that readiness, Gen. John Shalikashvili told a fall Army conference. The \$40 billion now budgeted each year for new weapons is too little, said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He added that the services need \$60 billion a year for new weapons to maintain their margin of superiority.

"I'm not naive enough to think that because I've said it," said Shalikashvili, Congress and the president will automatically hand over more money. More likely, military spending will remain near current levels, and the services will have to shift money around within their budgets to buy new weapons. That means making cuts elsewhere.

Shalikashvili suggested closing more bases, but many budget experts say more personnel cuts are the most realistic way to free money for weapons.

CUTTING CLASSES

C

LASSROOM training for troops might be the next target of defense budget cutters. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) says up to a third of the military's classes could be canceled, saving the services more than \$300 million a year.

Each day an estimated 12,600 troops attend classes in subjects from leadership skills to administrative practices. The services run 23 schools and also send troops to civilian colleges and universities.

According to the CBO, the number of troops hitting the books has increased by about 30 percent since the 1980s. Classroom credentials have grown more important as competition increases for promotions in a smaller military.

Beside eliminating courses, costs could be cut by closing classrooms and offering more courses by correspondence and computers, says the CBO.

IN THE NEWS

T

O simplify travel reimbursement, the Defense Department says personnel no longer have to submit receipts for auto rentals under \$75.... President Clinton has promised to start funding the \$3 billion reorganization of the Army National Guard in his 1998 defense budget.... Even Army nurses, once in short supply, now are being cut in the defense drawdown.... Air Guard and Reserve fire-fighting planes kept busy much of the fall battling the west's worst outbreak of forest fires in four decades.... The Army is in the process of designing a new uniform that might replace battle dress uniforms for routine wear on base.... The Navy commissioned its final Los Angeles-class attack submarine, Cheyenne, SSN-773, in September.

Why you should pay \$349 for this radio.

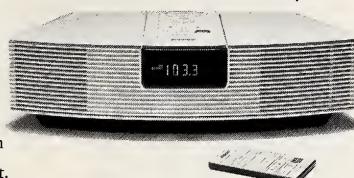
Obviously, it better not be just another radio. This one isn't. Quite simply, the Bose® Wave® radio gives you sound that's richer, more natural, more lifelike than you've ever heard from a radio. Many people think it actually sounds more like a stereo system. It's no exaggeration to say you have to hear it to believe it.

Finally, Bose sound from a small radio.

The Wave radio is from Bose, one of the world's leading makers of audio equipment. A few years ago, we undertook the task of getting Bose quality sound from a small radio. To do it, we used our patented acoustic waveguide speaker technology. Just as a flute strengthens a breath of air to fill an entire concert hall, the waveguide produces room-filling sound from a small enclosure.

Touch a button and hear your favorite music come alive in rich, lifelike stereo sound—sound that lets you hear every note

the way it's *meant* to be heard. Which is why it's well worth \$349. No matter what kind of music you



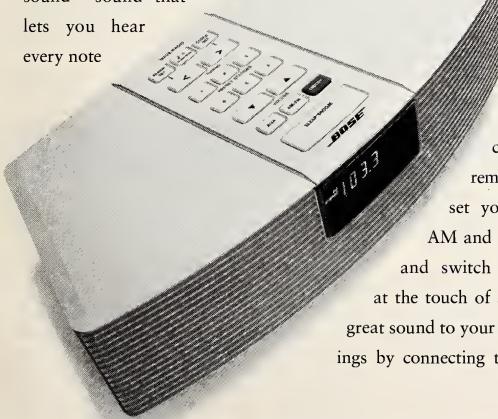
enjoy, the Wave radio will truly increase your listening pleasure. Consider that *Popular Science* honored the Wave radio with a "Best of What's New" award. *Business Week* named it a "Best New Product of 1994." And it measures just 4.5" H x 14" W x 8" D, so it's small enough to fit almost anywhere. You can listen in your bedroom, living room, kitchen, or any room.

Great sound made easy.

In addition to great sound, we built in an array of easy-to-use

features no other radio gives you.

Operate the radio from across the room with the credit card-sized remote control. Preset your favorite six AM and six FM stations and switch between them at the touch of a button. Bring great sound to your favorite recordings by connecting the Wave radio



© 1996 Bose Corporation. Covered by patent rights issued and/or pending. Installment payment plan option is not to be used in combination with any other offers. Price and/or payment plan are subject to change without notice. *Popular Science*, December 1993.

to your CD or cassette player. Or connect your TV or VCR to make your favorite programs and movies come alive.

Call now and make six interest-free payments.

We don't expect you to take our word for how good the Wave radio sounds. You really have to hear it to believe it. The Wave radio is available directly from Bose. Use the toll-free number or the coupon to request more information.

Or call to learn about our in-home trial and our satisfaction guarantee. And if you call today, you can enjoy the convenience of six interest-free payments.

Call 1-800-845-BOSE, ext. R3445, or send the coupon today.

You've had a lot of radios—small radios, portable radios. It's time you owned the best-sounding radio—the Bose Wave radio.

Call 1-800-845-BOSE, ext. R3445.

Mr./Mrs./Ms.
Name _____
(Please Print)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

()
Daytime Telephone _____

()
Evening Telephone _____

Mail to: Bose® Corporation, Dept. CDD-R3445,
The Mountain, Framingham, MA 01701-9168, or
fax to 1-508-485-4577. Ask about FedEx® delivery.

BOSE
Better sound through research®

POWER IN PRAISE



APPRECIATION—
Praise in public
and criticize behind
closed doors is a
prescription for
dealing with
co-workers
and loved ones.

A few kind
and sincere
words at
the right time
will make a
difference
in the lives
of those
near you.

By Robert McGarvey

GAN WE praise our way to success with the people around us? Is that the key to getting family, friends, co-workers to do more of what we want? The original Charles Schwab, for one, assures that this is the formula. One of the first executives to earn \$1 million in a year—and this was back in the 1920s when he headed giant U.S. Steel, now USX—Schwab was asked by Dale Carnegie to tell his secret of success for *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

"I consider my ability to arouse enthusiasm among my people the greatest asset I possess, and the way to develop a person is by appreciation and encouragement," Schwab explained. "So I am anxious to praise and loath to find fault."

Trouble is, most of us do the exact opposite. When researchers study this, they find that our critical pokes outnumber praising strokes by as much as five-to-one. Worse, even knowing that praise is the proven route to success with others

Robert McGarvey, a long-time contributor to this magazine, wrote "News You Can Choose" in the June 1996 issue.

is no guarantee. That's because "praise can amount to little more than hot air," says Hanoch McCarty, an educational consultant based in Galt, Calif.

The miscue is to mindlessly make the rounds, giving Sam a pat on the back, Joe an "Atta boy!" and a cheer to the rest. This glad-handing is worthless. "If you're faking praise, people see right through it," says Jack Rosenblum, a vice president at the Atlanta (Ga.) Consulting Group and co-author of *Managing From the Heart*.

How to ensure that our praise hits its mark? Understand that the rules for praising have been well researched and the starting point is to pay people in the coin they value, says McCarty, who adds that for praise to be effective, it has to home in on an area the other person values: "If you work for me and on payday I pay you in British pounds, you won't be happy. By the same token, if I compliment you on something you don't understand or care about, it's a waste."

"We all have a strike zone where praise is effective, and you want to be sure you're hitting that zone," adds Rosenblum. How? Often you'll know what friends or family members value, but you don't have to guess with them or with others. There's a surer solution: "Ask the person what matters to him or her," says Rosenblum. What accomplishments make him proud? What does he brag about? Keep at it until this person's strike zone comes into sharp focus.

Step two in praising for results is to be specific, says Rosenblum. He points out that while many of us excel at detailed criticism, "most of us offer vague praise." What's wrong with that? McCarty explains: "Tell a person, 'you're the best,' and the person will experience a little glow, but that will rapidly fade into anxiety—'what did I do to elicit that feedback?' People want to know—they crave—precise feedback on where and how they're excelling."

For example, let's say Joe coordinated a successful Fourth of July fireworks show. You might achieve some small amount of inspiration just by telling him it was "really nice." But for this praise to be effective, you'll applaud the sequence of firecrackers, the coordination of color and how it was all brought together at a good price—and, well, you're probably talking a

Please turn to page 44

Natural Prostate Relief

Our customers have said Prostsafe™ helps to:

Halt the endless trips to the bathroom during the night!

Stop that burning sensation during or after urination!

Prevent uncontrollable wetting!

Improve bladder control!

Empty bladder completely!

Sit through an entire sports event !

It's a natural fact. If you are a male over 40 and don't already suffer from a prostate gland disorder, the odds are 2 to 1 that you will before you are 59. By the age of 65, most American men have enlarged prostates. As the years pass, mild discomforts can become disabling. Today, prostate surgery is the second most commonly performed surgery for non-cancerous BPH in men over age 65! Some surgical complications can result.

Prescription drugs may halt the swelling, but many prescription drugs may also have side effects. Many doctors feel that disorders of BPH can be treated or prevented by giving the prostate gland the nutrition it lacks.

Recent scientific research has shown how to remedy the

underlying problems associated with disorders of BPH -- safely and effectively. These results have been published in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology* and the *American Journal of Gerontology*. They reveal that several vitamins, minerals and natural herbs can dramatically shrink the prostate and improve urinary performance in older men.

The most modern application of these healthy ingredients is found in Prostsafe™ from Whitewing Labs. Prostsafe is the nutritional "tool kit" for men with benign prostate problems, and those who wish to prevent them. It is a mixture of zinc, serenoa serrulata, ginseng, certain amino acids, bee pollen and vitamins A, B-6 and E. These ingredients have been shown to help shrink a swollen prostate.



As little as a dollar a day seems like inexpensive insurance against disorders of BPH. If for some reason you are not satisfied, just return the unused portion within 30 days for a full refund. The reasons why men over 40 use Prostsafe are clear. If you are looking for relief, order Prostsafe today.

Dr. Leslie Atterbury III, M.D.,
says "Prostsafe supplies
essential vitamins, minerals
and herbs needed to nourish
and maintain a healthy
prostate."



Whitewing Labs, Inc. Dept 1490 17939 Chatsworth St., Suite 408, Granada Hills, CA 91344

PS1 1 month supply of Prostsafe only \$ 34.95

PS2 2 month supply (Save \$9.95) only \$ 59.95

PS6 6 month supply (Save \$89.75) only \$ 119.95

Shipping & Handling (add \$10.00 for express) \$ 5.00

Tax in CA add 8.25% or in AZ add 5.75% \$ _____

Check Enclosed Charge to Total Amount \$ _____

MC/Visa/AmEx/Disc. Exp. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Ph: (____) _____

UPS Ship to: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Ph: (____) _____

"I no longer stop at all the rest areas on the golf course."
-- Mr. R. Reeve, Roswell, GA

"Before I used to have several bladder infections a year.
Now I do not have any." -- Mr. A. Simon, Charlotte, NC

"I have less aches and stiffness." -- Mr. K. Osmon, St. Francisville, IL

"Now I get a good night's sleep without getting up every two hours to urinate." -- Mr. C. Hussy, Cleburne, TX

"Prostsafe has stopped the burning after urination."
-- Mr. C.E. Black, Barboursville, WV

"...my urinary flow has improved greatly. I no longer have to force..." -- Mr. P. G. Sadler, Ocean, NJ

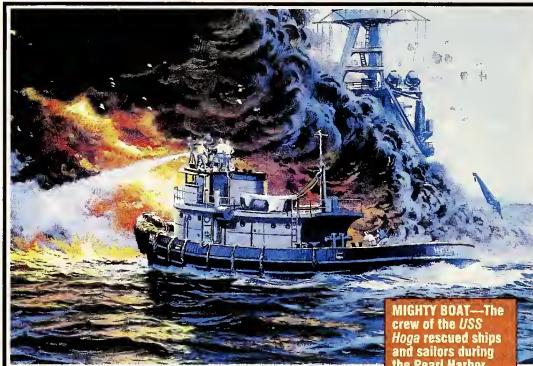
**Call 1-800-950-3030 Dept. 1490
or FAX to 818-898-2136
Whitewing Labs, Inc.**

Not available in retail stores. Don't delay - order today.

YOUR AMERICAN LEGION

TUG OF WAR

USS Hoga survived the Imperial Japanese Navy's attack on Pearl Harbor. Some dedicated legionnaires will make her part of the remembrance.



USAZOONIA MEMORIAL PARK SERVICE

FIFTY-FIVE years after Pearl Harbor, American Legionnaires are raising \$1 million to preserve the *USS Hoga*, which has the distinction of being the last surviving Pearl Harbor Navy vessel. *Hoga* is, or was, a Navy tugboat. After 1948 she was a fireboat, *The City of Oakland*, on the San Francisco Bay beat. Today, at the end of her usefulness, the ship is moored at Treasure Island. Despite the tug's place on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, it was due to be scrapped by the financially embattled Navy Department. Now she is a cause for The American Legion Department of Hawaii.

When pictures of the Pearl Harbor attack surface in magazines or on television, they typically show battleships enduring repeated hits from torpedoes and bombs as flames sweep across the great ships' decks.

In the corner of the picture, a careful eye might pick out *Hoga*, veiled in smoke near Ford's Island, trying to succor *USS Arizona* and armed only with the courage and determination of her crew. When the Legion's effort is complete, *Hoga* will be back at Ford's Island, according to Robert Beutler, 62, Aiea, Hawaii, a member of Post 1 and a co-chairman of the Save the *Hoga* Committee. John Lockhart, Post 44 and Department judge advocate, is the chairman.

"The ship will be operational," Beutler said. "The president could come ride it around the harbor if he wanted to." The project is chartered by Res. 26 of the National Executive Committee's spring meeting.

When the Legionnaires' work is complete, *Hoga* will be docked near the boarding area for the *USS Arizona* Memorial. A pavilion will feature photos and guides to the historical context of the tug.

The crew of the yard tug *Hoga* (YT-146) performed heroic service during the attack, not by firing on the enemy but by saving the lives of sailors who otherwise would not have lived to fight another day. As soon as the attack began, *Hoga* (the Sioux word for "fish") raced out to Battleship Row along Ford's Island and immediately pulled two men from the water before braving the blanket of fire that covered *Arizona*.

During the attack, *Hoga* saved the damaged repairship *Vestal* by pulling it away from the doomed *Arizona*. Equally heroic was *Hoga*'s assistance to the battleship *Nevada*, which suffered severe damage while attempting to get underway. The *Hoga* and another yard tug helped nudge the *Nevada* aground, preventing it from both sinking and blocking the harbor channel.

For its work that day, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz awarded the *Hoga* and its crew a commendation for "disregard for personal danger" during the attack.

"We don't want to charge admission for this," Beutler said. "This is a piece of history, and we think it would be fun for Americans to come and see the last remaining ship from the attack on Pearl Harbor."

The committee is offering anyone who makes a donation membership in the "*Hoga Plank Owners Association*." This entitles the plank owner to a certificate thanking the donor for the contribution and the opportunity to have their name and, if desired, address and phone number in a log aboard ship or perhaps in a computer record in the memorial pavilion.

There is no minimum donation. Beutler said any help, no matter how small, is appreciated. He also noted that if every member of The

Please turn to page 42

For 50 years, this holiday movie has moved and inspired Americans, and its simple messages of love and hope endure.



50 Year Anniversary

IN 1944,

fiction writer Philip Van Doren Stem wrote a short story he had privately printed in a tiny hardcover booklet. Calling his story, *The Greatest Gift*, Stem mailed it off to family and friends as a combination Christmas card and present.

One copy went to his agent, who was so touched by the story that she submitted it to several Hollywood studios as the basis for a film. After several months of negotiation, Charles Koerner, head of production at RKO Radio Pictures, purchased the story for \$50,000. Astonished at the sale price, author Stem later confided in

It's A Wonderful Life

By
Victor M.
Parachin

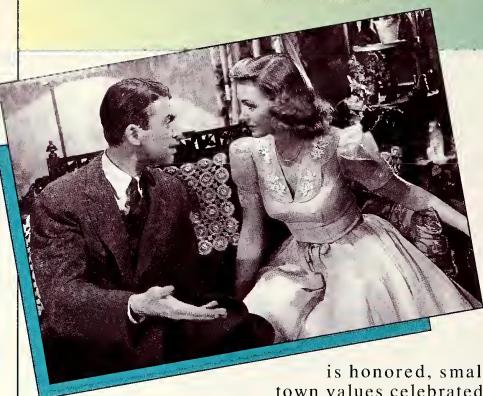
Victor Parachin, who writes on a variety of subjects, is living a wonderful life in Claremont, Calif.

friends, "I thought the studios were crazy for buying it!"

In spite of the author's skepticism about turning his simple short story into a full-length film, Koerner gave the book over to studio writers to develop a screenplay. Additional thousands of dollars were spent, but none of the work satisfied Koerner. He turned to a recently released WWII Army officer, Frank Capra, and asked him to read the story and offer his opinion.

Before the war, Capra had established himself as a popular film director with a series of film comedies including *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* (1936), *You Can't Take It With You* (1938) and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939).

When the United States entered the war, Capra enlisted in the Army. Wisely, the military placed him in



It's A Wonderful Life

charge of the war documentary series, *Why We Fight* (1942-1945).

Capra mustered out a colonel with a Distinguished Service Medal, eager as any GI to get on with his life. He welcomed the opportunity to give Stem's story a careful reading, saw its potential and agreed to take on the project. Capra brought in some new writers, added some scenes of his own and retitled the work: *It's A Wonderful Life*.

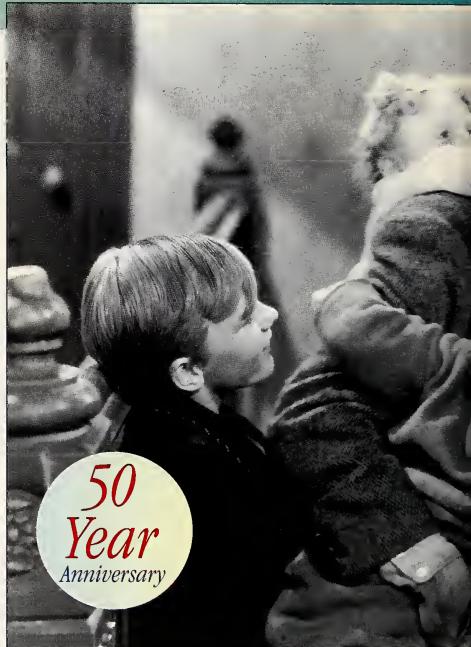
Today, 50 years after its release, *It's A Wonderful Life* continues to turn composed film fans into teary ones. No one need be a critic to appreciate it. When Stem wrote the original, America was just emerging from the Depression and had been thrust into a world war. Those apocalyptic times had many Americans fearful and uncertain. Stem's story is classic Americanism in which fatherhood

is honored, small town values celebrated, greed thwarted, faith in God validated, a suicide averted and a world war won.

The plot is simple. *Life* tells the tale of a common man, George Bailey, portrayed by Jimmy Stewart. Forced to give up his dream to travel by the necessity of taking over the family business—a building and loan association—he remains at home while his younger brother goes off to war and returns a hero. The business Bailey stays home to run is threatened by a cruel and unscrupulous competitor. Depressed and despairing, Bailey contemplates suicide but is saved by a guardian angel, Clarence, who responds to Bailey's cry, "I wish I had never been born." The angel shows Bailey how his community and loved ones would have fared had his retroactive wish been granted, and those powerful images convince Bailey it is better to live. The angel reminds him, "You've had a wonderful life."

When Bailey goes home that Christmas Eve, he finds the people in his community have chipped in to save the business, rallying behind Bailey at a critical time.

Although the film continues to attract new generations of fans and has become a holiday classic for millions, most people are surprised to learn that in 1946 *It's A Wonderful Life* was a financial flop. In spite of receiving five Academy Award nominations (but no Oscar) and

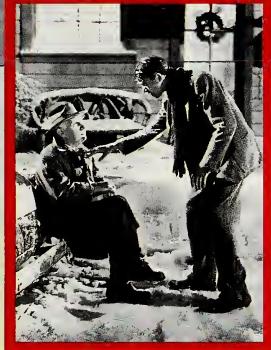


Jimmy Stewart
plays the part of
George Bailey. This
'everyman' figure is
saved by a guardian
angel who shows
Bailey how life
would have been
had he not existed.





THE MESSAGE—
Fifty years after its release, *It's A Wonderful Life* encourages us to turn to those things in life that matter most in good times and bad—family, friends and the traditional values of honor and respect. It reminds us that life is worth living even when things are at their worst.



gaining generally favorable reviews, the film lost \$525,000, then an enormous sum, even by Hollywood standards. Some believe that America's early postwar atmosphere was not friendly to Capra's unique vision of triumph over tragedy and goodness conquering greed. Yet *Life's* message calls across the years, winning the loyalty of new viewers young and old, male and female.

Capra declared it his personal favorite among all the films he directed. Jimmy Stewart cited it as his favorite

work as well.

Director Capra had a finely tuned sense for themes that would appeal to viewers. He once outlined rules "that I abide by religiously in selecting a story. My first rule is that it must have charm. If a tale leaves you with a glow of satisfaction, it has the quality I seek. Second, it must have interesting characters that do the things human beings do or would like to do if they had the courage and opportunity. My third and last requisite is that the members of the cast must, in real

Frank Capra
created a timeless
classic which
inspires us to love
and to hope, and
to understand how
our own lives touch
the lives of others.

life, be the nearest thing possible to the characters they are to portray, so that their performance will require the least acting."

Capra's third rule led him directly to Jimmy Stewart for the role of George Bailey. Like Capra, Stewart interrupted his Hollywood career to serve in the Army. Like Capra, Stewart returned a decorated war hero, anxious to resume acting. As an unemployed actor, Stewart was thrilled to hear from Capra, not because he felt the movie would necessarily become a box-office success but because he desperately needed the work:

"I remember when he called me about the story of *It's A Wonderful Life*. We had both been out of the service for several months, and

I had no offers to play in pictures of any kind. But Frank called me and said he had an idea for a picture, and I went over to his house. He started a rather rambling story about a guardian angel and a man about to commit suicide and wishing he had never been born, and it was all rather confusing. However, I frankly didn't ask many questions and simply said that I would like, with all my heart, to play the part of George Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life*."

During production, Capra continued to create scenes, dialogue and special touches. One was the classic Charleston dance contest sequence shot at Beverly Hills High School. When a crew member mentioned that the dance floor was movable and

Please turn to page 44



Mr. Veteran

In his 30 years on Capitol Hill, Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery of Mississippi has never sounded retreat as an advocate for America's veterans.

SUMMERS in Washington, D.C., tend to be hot and muggy, even without the blistering climate that often engulfs Capitol Hill when controversial legislation such as welfare reform and budget planning is being debated. There's added heat when it's an election year, with spin doctors cranking out a flurry of sound bites for candidates whose campaigns are beginning to snowball. On this day in late July, shortly before Congress is scheduled to recess for the Labor Day holiday, one long-time member of the House of Representatives has no plans to travel the campaign trail when he returns to his home district.

The door swings open and the Mississippi Democrat strolls into the House Veterans' Affairs Committee (HVAC) hearing room, an ornate yet comfortable chamber that includes the flags of the various veterans' service organizations, most notably the distinctive red banner of The American Legion. He's on his own; there are no note-taking aides leading or trailing their boss. He walks across the room, puts his right hand forward and grins: "Morning. Glad you could make it up here to see me. I'm Sonny Montgomery." Indeed, G.V. Montgomery is known as "Sonny" by his colleagues and his staff, but he also goes by another name, *Mr. Veteran*.

Having served on the HVAC since the LBJ administration, Montgomery owns a reputation as a hard-nosed advocate for America's veterans. A retired major general of the Mississippi National Guard, he chaired the veterans' committee from 1981 to 1994 and has since served as the ranking minority member. He's also been a member of the House Armed Services Committee (recently renamed the House National Security Committee) and is the ranking minority member.

"If anyone has earned respect and their just due, it is the American veteran. I always have kept this in mind during my career in Congress," says Montgomery, a veteran of World War II and Korea, and a life member of American Legion Post 21, Meridian, Miss. Montgomery joined the Legion soon after returning from the battlefields of Europe as a young Army infantry and armor officer.

Late last year, Montgomery announced he would retire from the House at the end of the 104th Congress, capping a 30-year tour of duty on Capitol Hill. The 76-year-old veteran of wars both literal and political recently took time out from his schedule to recall his career representing the people in Mississippi's 3rd Congressional District and battling for veterans' benefits and issues. Following are excerpts from that interview:

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE: You were elected to Congress in 1966, when U.S. military involvement in Vietnam was escalating, the civil rights movement was in full swing and LBJ's "Great Society" programs were beginning to take root. What was it like to come to Washington with so many changes going on?

SONNY MONTGOMERY: Well, they were different times, and it was a change for me. What was surprising was that I was the only member of Congress to have visited Vietnam during the war years 1967 to 1973. That kind of surprised me mainly because the Vietnam War was claiming the lives of our young men. I traveled to Vietnam about 16 times after becoming a congressman, meeting with the troops and talking to the field commanders.

Overall, I was able to make the adjustment and get to work because I was used to the legislative process, having served in Mississippi's state senate for many years. The issues we were dealing with in the mid-to-early 1970s were important and often troubling. But you know, the atmosphere here hasn't changed all that much in 30 years; we have our ups and downs and disagreements today. I have always backed strong veterans' programs and a strong national defense. They seem to go hand-in-hand. That's why I got on the veterans' affairs committee and later was appointed to the House Armed Services Committee—the two areas I cared most about and had a background in.

I wasn't exactly on the front of Lyndon Johnson's revolution and many of the programs he brought in. But I have to hand it to him, he got things done. Basically, I held firm to my moderate-to-conservative views then, and I still do. It wasn't always popular to do so as a Democrat back in



HIGHER EDUCATION—More than two million active-duty GIs and reservists have used the Montgomery Bill to further their education.



HEALTHY PROSPECT—Montgomery's leadership helped keep the VA in the forefront of government programs.



FLAG PROTECTION—Montgomery persuaded many of his House colleagues to vote for the measure in 1995.

NOMIS/THOMAS STOCHI

those days (*laughs*).

Q. You've been called "Mr. Veteran" because of your long-time veterans' advocacy role and position on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. What has been your proudest accomplishment?

A. I enjoyed very much being chairman of the committee. I felt like we accomplished much during those 14 years in advancing veterans' programs. You never get everything you want—never—because that's the way the process works here, but I felt we have done some good work over the years, Democrats and Republicans alike.

More specifically, when I look back I would have to say that elevating the VA to the cabinet level status was a tremendous accomplishment [The agency was renamed the Department of Veterans' Affairs in 1989]. Veterans'

groups like the Legion were a big help in making this happen. It used to be if you went to the White House representing veterans or pushing for a program, you had to go in the back door. When the VA became part of the cabinet, we started going in the front door.

I also take pride in the passage of the Montgomery GI Bill [named for Montgomery who established a matching fund education program for military recruits after 1985]. The program before this bill just wasn't working at all. Today, more than two million, both active duty and reserve members, have or will take advantage of this higher education program. I give a lot of credit to Mack Fleming, who was my general counsel on the veterans' committee at the time. This kind of assistance helps the country, too. An educated veteran has much to offer employers, not to mention

Please turn to page 44

*Long after
World War II,
old salts
remember
their destroyer,
and the journey
from being
boys to
becoming men.*



'Tin Can' Odyssey

By Kent Wadsworth

IHE USS *Cassin Young* cut a long, luminous wake off Buckner Bay. The Fletcher-class destroyer, one of the Navy's premier tin cans, was trolling for trouble in the phosphorescent waters of the Philippine Sea. Above her, the sky was bright with a full moon. Around her, the water was smooth.

It was perfect suicide weather.

Relieved at midnight from his watch, Petty Officer 1st Class James Marrs chose to stay on deck. After he pulled a flight bag over his head and fell asleep, a lone plane, screened from radar by the southern tip of Okinawa,

appeared a mile away, flying up the wake. Marrs, 21, woke as the ship went to general quarters.

Bong! Bong! Bong! "Be on your battle stations, be close by and be ready!"

Men scrambled through hatches, up ladders and onto the deck. In less than a minute, the vessel's guns—which had been waiting in their water jackets, still as barnacles—came to life, primed. Firing motors kicked in and pointers' wheels cranked as the hydraulic ammo lifts pumped belts of brass casings into line.

The ship maneuvered radically at emergency flank speed.

"Action starboard, commence firing!" crackled over voice-powered phones from the fire-control radar station. The 5-inch/.38-caliber and 40mm guns started firing. Marrs entered the pilot house.

"Twenty-one hundred yards!" the gun director called out. Marrs and a

PHOTO BY JESSE NEUMAYER/MERCURY PICTURES

Kent Wadsworth, a freelance writer, resides in Wilmette, Ill.





FLOATING REMINDER—Now permanently berthed near the *USS Constitution* in Charlestown Navy Yard, the *USS Cassin Young* is visited by more than 300,000 people each year. For most it may be just a ship, but to those who lived on her, she was a floating rite of passage.

'Memories come back. You're 18 or 19 again with people you like and love.'

Sumner Wheeler (bottom left)
president of the Cassin Young
Association.

torpedoman locked eyes.

"Nineteen hundred yards...1500...1100 yards!" The 20mm guns opened fire.

The incoming airplane was clocked at 70 knots. Wheels like donuts dangled from its non-retractable landing gear—an old canvas- and wood-frame biplane.

"It's gonna hit us!" Marrs shouted, moving to the port side of the pilot house. The kamikaze smashed into the base of the bridge and the No. 1 stack, exploding into the forward fireroom.

Later, from across the years, Marrs would recall: "The starboard lookout was, uh—too bad it didn't kill him instantly; let's put it that way."

The kamikaze killed 21 men, wounded 47 and left one missing. The heaviest losses came in the forward fireroom where shrapnel riddled the boilers and pierced steam lines. The crewmen there were incinerated.

"Everybody in there was gone," remembers former Lt. David Overholst, now 74, who was on the bridge at the time.

The *Cassin Young* was the last American ship known to be hit by a kamikaze. She was struck only two weeks before the Japanese surrendered. After seven battles, 20 rigorous months in the Pacific and 150,000 nautical miles, the *Cassin Young* was patched up and returned to San Diego, Calif., for a much-needed overhaul.

CASSIN Young was typical of the Tin Can Navy—the small boys, the watchdogs of the fleet. There was a certain esprit de corps unique to these World War II destroyermen. Perhaps it was the cramped quarters in a Fletcher's 376 feet, the pervasive smell of fuel or the knowledge that, as 325 men lay in bunks stacked three-high and a forearm apart, only a three-eighths-inch hull separated them from the ocean.

Adm. Chester Nimitz described destroyers as the Navy's most useful tool. As such, they bore the brunt of the Pacific Fleet's losses, accounting for 40 percent of the ships that sank. Fifty-two of the more than 500 U.S. destroyers that fought in both theaters of the war went to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. But the *Cassin Young* lives on, one of a surviving handful of the 175 Fletcher destroyers built during the war.

Today, the men of the "Fighting Cock," the heraldry of the *Cassin Young*, are an inexorably disappearing remnant of the tin can sailors. Memories of their heroics linger a

Please turn to page 46



The American Legion
GI Bill Of Health

BENEFITS SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL VETS

Here's what the plan will give you and your family.

By Miles Z. Epstein

CHOOSING a health-care plan is like shopping for a car. Medical treatment systems, like automobiles, have many moving parts that make them work for you. And when the system stops working for you—either the people, the machines or the bureaucracy—it could be deadly.

Indeed, VA health care's present system is running more like an old jalopy than a new car. The solution: The GI Bill of Health.

Veterans who have been denied access to VA care, those currently

Miles Z. Epstein is executive editor of this magazine.



receiving VA care or those who might wish to in the future support the plan because it gives them more choices and better treatment. The plan would allow any veteran and his or her family to use VA. Those who have a service-connected disability rated 50 percent or greater or are catastrophically ill would get care free of charge or with a small copayment, and those with higher incomes could get themselves and their family into the system by paying a premium. Today, if you're not a poor veteran with a service-connected disability, VA is unlikely to have a place for you.

To get VA's specialized care, veterans need not be poor under the Legion plan. And low-income veterans get to keep their VA access and care without risk. The Legion's GI Bill of Health will not only rebuild VA, it will make it better than it was before.

Why is the GI Bill of Health good for veterans?

What is truly dramatic about our proposed GI Bill of Health is that it will expand choices available to veterans by

integrating Medicare and other health insurance coverage reimbursement plans into the existing veterans health-care system," says Rep. Jim Longley, R-Maine, who introduced the bill in Congress. "This will be a tremendous plus for veterans and a strong shot in the arm to the Department of Veterans' Affairs hospital system."

Longley says the legislation is good for veterans because it moves them into a "seamless system of health care access where the first priority is always health care, not whether or not you are eligible under the VA system."

The GI Bill of Health is good for veterans in many specific and tangible ways including:

- It assures all veterans with service-connected illnesses or disability ratings of 50 percent or greater continued access to the same VA services that they are eligible for right now—at no charge.
- It guarantees all special-service category veterans, indigent veterans and veterans with a service-connected disability rated at less than 50 percent



MCARTHY/STOCKMARKET

DEPENDENT CARE

The GI Bill is good for veterans with families. Through premiums, copayments and deductibles, all eligible veterans and their dependents will have access to VA care.

access to VA health care at no charge or at a reduced fee.

- It gives all catastrophically ill veterans access to the system.

- It provides veterans, military retirees and their dependents with the ability to use existing Medicare, Medicaid, CHAMPUS or Tri-Care, third-party payers or employer health benefit plans to pay for VA health care.

- It offers veterans and their dependents enrollment in various health care plans.

- And it allows the VA system to collect and retain payments for the service it renders, a big step toward making the system financially sound.

Preventive care. VA health care will undergo a necessary and fundamental change under the Legion plan. It will be reorganized into a health care delivery system based on hospitals and preventive care clinics. Today, VA is mostly a network for ill and impoverished veterans with access often denied to veterans not fitting these categories. "The American Legion recognizes that VA has the

capacity and the mission to be more than it is," says Frank. "And this plan will allow VA to tap into the health-care network's enormous potential."

Caring for dependents. One of the benefits of the GI Bill of Health is that it offers coverage for family members, too. Through premiums, co-payments and deductibles, all eligible veterans and their dependents will have access to VA care.

The infusion of young, healthy patients will allow VA to focus on preventive care and build a financial base to better deal with chronically ill veterans. In essence, the plan borrows from the principles of insurance risk; the worst risks are balanced out by a lot of

healthy people who pay premiums.

One look at the healthy profits of the insurance industry reveals that such a system in VA health care would ensure the survival of VA for generations. That's the essence of the Legion's plan.

Mandated care. VA and the veterans under its care will also benefit from a system of capitation, or funding based on how many veterans actually use VA. Instead of providing VA with a set amount of money and asking it to do what it can for veterans, this new system would give VA the money to do everything for those it ultimately is asked to care for.

The GI Bill of Health enhances VA by making it able to serve those men and women who have earned honorably the right to seek out VA services and to expect appropriate speed and quality. □

WHAT THE PLAN PROVIDES

service and diagnostic services.

- Comprehensive benefits package: All of the above plus

pediatric services, mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment, hospice care, extended care services, authorized transportation services, durable medical equipment, outpatient prescription drugs, diagnostic devices and treatments, routine vision testing and eye care (including corrective lenses) and routine dental care.

- Specialized services: Any care authorized by Chapter 17, Title 38, United States Code, including but not limited to services such as rehabilitation for the blind, rehabilitation for spinal cord injuries and dysfunctions, treatment for chronic psychiatric illness (PTSD) and ongoing service for users of artificial limbs and sensory aid devices.

Basic benefits package: Hospital services, including psychiatric care, services of health professionals, medical and surgical services (including women's health care services), outpatient services, 24-hour emergency service, preventive health

By Tom McKenney

GHIEF WARRANT Officer Fred Horsley flung his helicopter out of a moonless midnight sky, unleashed a machine gun burst at Manuel Noriega's headquarters and followed up with two rockets.

On time, on target; at 11:45 p.m., Horsley fired the first shots of Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama, Dec. 19, 1989.

Horsley tried to pull up and go around for another pass, but his controls were out, likely from a hit in the linkage. Loaded with fuel and munitions, the aircraft vectored in at more than 125 miles an hour.

Horsley and Captain George Kunkle, his co-pilot, were going to crash...

In his Kentucky home at Fort Campbell, Horsley's wife and children were busy with Christmas decorations and gifts. As usual, Horsley's family didn't know where he was or when he'd return; what he did was secret. But he always got back for Christmas.

Horsley and Kunkle were members of the Army's elite and secret 160th Special Operations Regiment, helicopter pilots in B Co., 1st Bn. Until 10 a.m., they had expected to return to Fort Campbell. After quietly moving into Howard Air Force Base, southwest of Panama City, they had been waiting to attack for almost two weeks.

In October the men of B Co. had moved secretly to Edwards only to have the operation called off.

But at 10 a.m. on Dec. 19, the other leaders were told that the operation would "go" that day, and "H" Hour (time for launching the attack) was midnight.

As noon passed, there were doubts; the men knew the attack could be called off. "It's Christmas," they kept thinking, "and they always get us home for Christmas." Horsley's hunch: this time they would go in.

After dark, the helicopters were moved to the flight line and fueled. In the hangar, the battalion chaplain moved quietly among the men, talking and praying with them.

Horsley walked alone to the flight

Tom McKenney, a retired Marine Corps officer, resides in Gulfport, Miss.

Miracle On An Unsilent Night

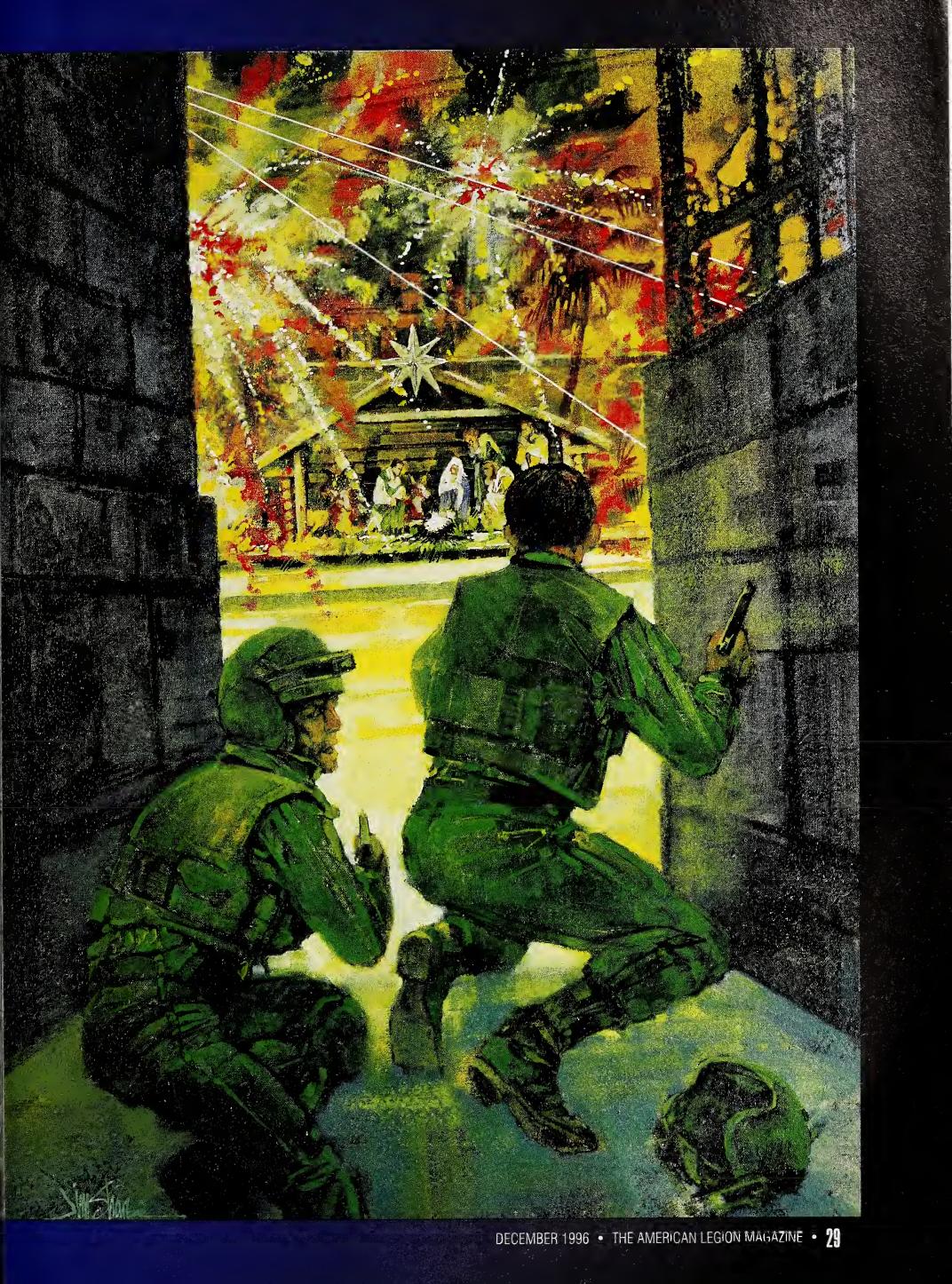
line where his AH-6 attack helicopter waited with its rocket pods and a machine gun. He checked his little gunship once more; but his purpose was to be alone, to pray, to find some peace about what he was about to do.

Horsley was a 22-year veteran of special operations, not only of the sort he faced that night, but also of patrols into Cambodia and Laos. This mission and the danger to the crowded neighborhoods around the targets troubled him. It would be easy to make a mistake. "Just one block off...or one street off," he thought, "or even one house off, and it's a terrible 'Merry Christmas' for innocent people."

Horsley's primary target, Noriega's lair in the Comandancia, a walled complex, occupied a block near the waterfront in old Panama City.

Horsley and his family had lived in Panama City for five years while he was with the 7th Special Forces Group. They had strolled the streets around the Comandancia on warm evenings, savoring

In the heat of battle against Panamanian forces, the trapped and injured GIs saw a Nativity scene—and it led them to safety.



the pinks and lavenders of tropical sunsets. They had dined at a favorite restaurant down the street.

At 8 p.m., the unit got bad news. Intercepted messages indicated Noriega knew the Americans were coming at midnight. Surprise, essential in special operations, was lost. Horsley and the other leaders thought "H" Hour would be moved up, but this couldn't be done.

10 p.m. "H" Hour was advanced—by 15 minutes. To the Panamanian gunners, it would make little difference.

10:30: More bad news. Intelligence reported a heavy machine gun on the roof of an apartment building overlooking the Comandancia. From there, gunners would have clear shooting at the American helicopters. As the pilot scheduled to be first over the objective, Horsley drew the additional mission of knocking it out; to fail would be disastrous to the helicopters following him.

11 p.m. Horsley and Kunkle climb into their gunship and fly low to the arming point.

11:37: They lift off and turn northeast, pass the Bridge of the Americas, cross the Canal and navigate between the twin peaks of Ancon Hill toward old Panama City.

Closing on the Comandancia, Horsley saw that intelligence had been right: a heavy gun was posted on the apartment's roof. The best way to take it out would be with rockets, likely to penetrate the concrete roof and kill any civilians below. He would use guns.

With his hand on the trigger, Horsley pounced on the target. At 4,000 rounds a minute, with every fifth round a tracer, a minigun sounds like an accelerating Indy 500 contender, and its fire looks like a laser.

Suddenly, the night lit up with a glitter of tracers coming at him.

Horsley thought, "I won't mention those tracers to Kunkle... I don't want to upset him."

In one burst, Horsley's minigun took out the rooftop post, and Horsley rolled left to hit Noriega's headquarters. The minigun blazed. Two rockets roared away and destroyed a machine gun post on a third-floor balcony. Horsley eased back on the collective, the control for climbing, to get out of the way of his wing man.

Nothing happened.

"This thing is flying like a safe, and we're going in," Horsley thought.

In all his 22 years of special operations, he'd never thought, "This is it... there's no way I'm going to live

through this one."

The control for turning worked, and Horsley broke right and smashed into the courtyard.

The helicopter skidded sideways, charged into a stone pillar, spun left, careened up the steps of a large building, stopped at the front entrance and began to burn. Doctors later determined the crash broke Horsley's back in three places, tore his back muscles from his spine and snapped two ribs.

As his mind cleared, Horsley was amazed that the helicopter hadn't exploded. Kunkle scrambled out—cut and



The serene figures around the manger flooded his spirit with peace. And with the peace Horsley knew it was time to go and that all would be well.

bruised but relatively unhurt. Horsley's door was blocked by the building. He tried to slide out Kunkle's but couldn't. "What's wrong with my straps? What's holding me?", he thought, clearing his straps again. Shock was easing his pain, and he tried again, but something was holding him in.

As the fire moved forward, Horsley noticed that the crash had thrust a piece of the overhead frame between his chest and survival vest. Freeing himself, he slid easily out the right door.

At the bottom of the steps, they moved right and stopped. Seeing something ahead, unable to make it out, they had a whispered consultation. Horsley's night-vision goggles had been torn away, but half of Kunkle's was still attached to his helmet. It showed the shadowy masses were a row of combat vehi-

cles. Their briefing had mentioned the vehicles mounted machine guns and were manned 24 hours a day. Horsley thought, "We are in the middle of the headquarters compound, and we're in big trouble!"

They began to attract small arms fire from the rooftops. Since the trucks were apparently unmanned, they scurried past toward another building.

Following the building's front to a narrow alley, Horsley and Kunkle ducked in and crouched, back to back, breathing hard.

"Maybe," Horsley thought, "if we can contact our guys, we can get out."

Taking his emergency radio from his vest, Horsley tried to contact the other Americans; he got nothing. Kunkle tried with his radio, still nothing.

Horsley recalled the wall was at the end of the row of buildings to their right. If they could reach the wall and get over, they would have a chance to link up with American forces. But every time they moved out of their alley, small arms fire forced them back.

Then Horsley recognized a new and ominous sound overhead.

The helicopters had been joined by an AC-130, a large cargo plane modified for ground attack. Heavy weapons and a huge supply of ammunition made it a flying bludgeon. As if to confirm their fears, the AC-130 swept the compound with 40mm cannon fire.

The AC-130 then switched to a larger weapon, a 105mm howitzer, capable of reducing an average-size home to rubble with one round. Horsley knew the plan. The buildings in the compound were numbered from 1 through 28, with Noriega's headquarters designated Building 1. The AC-130's mission: destroy the buildings. Pulling out a target diagram, Horsley calculated that they were hiding between 16 and 17.

The relentless AC-130 was now demolishing Building 13.

Out of ideas and increasingly disabled by his injuries, Horsley had reached the end. Resigned, he waited, crouching painfully in a rising tide of hopelessness.

Then the flash and flame of an exploding rocket revealed a Nativity scene in the courtyard.

From his crouch, the mannequins of the Holy Family looked life-size, and for a moment the figures seemed real. From the Nativity scene in the midst of battle, the serene gathering around the manger flooded his spirit with peace. And with the peace Horsley knew it was time to

Please turn to page 47

Worse Living Through Chemistry

WHEN U.S.-led coalition forces stormed into southern Iraq to finish their work against Saddam Hussein's forces in March 1991, they unwittingly might have exposed themselves to chemical weaponry, which, to a large degree, could explain why some Gulf War veterans are suffering from a variety of unexplained illnesses.

That's one of the possibilities the Presidential Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans (PAC) is seriously considering as the group's probe continues. The Kamisiyah bunker complex, destroyed by U.S. forces near the end of the ground war, is the suspected culprit.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has revised its estimate from 1,100 to about 5,000 troops within 25 kilometers of Kamisiyah who might have been exposed to chemical fallout from the bunker's demolition. As a result, PAC recommends that these troops be contacted and encouraged to undergo a medical examination by the VA or at military hospitals. DoD investigators have, to date, contacted about 500.

"The evidence of chemical release is overwhelming," says Matthew Puglisi, who heads The American Legion Persian Gulf War Veterans Task Force. Puglisi, a member of the presidential commission, says reports of other "site-specific exposures"

should not be discounted either.

In addition, there were at least 20 reports of chemical detection during the ground war by U.S. Fox vehicles and M256 kits. PAC says a thorough investigation of the vehicles and kits should be launched immediately.

Evidence that chemical agents were used by the Iraqis continues to mount. Czech chemical teams reported detecting chemical agents in northern Saudi Arabia during the first week of the air war in January 1991.

PAC says it cannot find credible evidence that Iraq used chemical weaponry in direct attacks on coalition forces.

The commission also is critical of the Department of Defense's role in the investigation. DoD consistently has denied that U.S. troops were exposed to chemical or biological agents. PAC recommends that a group independent of the DoD conduct its own probe of chemical and biological exposures.

"The Defense Department actively has pursued a policy to undermine Gulf War veterans' claims of illness related to their service," Puglisi says. "Forcing the DoD out of the issue will free the government to devote its resources more toward finding out why Gulf veterans are sick, rather than why they are not sick."

A final report by PAC is being prepared.

It's Only Business

While our government continues to further open the door to diplomatic ties with Hanoi, it also appears to be slamming it shut in the faces of American POW-MIA families.

Included in **HR 3450**, the 1997 Foreign Operations measure, is a spending authorization of \$1.5 million in economic assistance to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

The American Legion is opposed to the provision, citing Hanoi's continued foot-dragging in resolving the fates of servicemen who did not return from the war in Southeast Asia. In a letter to the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Legion officials also said Vietnam has defaulted on previous loans. U.S. policy prohibits non-humanitarian aid to any nation defaulting on U.S.-backed loans.

The Clinton administration has made clear its intention to strengthen diplomatic relations with Vietnam," says John F. Sommer, executive director of the Legion's Washington, D.C., office, who has helped spearhead the Legion's POW-MIA initiative.

The trade embargo against Vietnam was lifted early in the current administration, following the "road map" plan put together by the Bush administration. Several U.S. firms were poised to do business in Vietnam when the trade ban was relaxed.

"The American Legion believes that to reward the Hanoi regime for its lack of help in resolving MIA cases and identifying the remains of missing service members is a betrayal of the brave men who gave their lives for the principles of freedom," Sommer says.

Full Medal Jacket

"M" marks the spot for Reservists and National Guard members who were activated for service in the Persian Gulf War.

More than 282,000 of these troops are now eligible to wear the bronze "M" mobilization device. Also eligible are Reservists and Guard members who participated in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, and Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia. Reservists will affix the "M" to the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

The White House executive order authorizing the "M" device also recognizes longevity of service in the nation's reserves. A bronze hourglass attachment indicates 10 years of service; silver, 20 years; and gold, 30 years.

"This device recognizes the sacrifice of our National Guard and Reserve people who are mobilized as part of the nation's Total Force," says Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

A Close Look

The Legion-proposed GI Bill of Health, **HR 3950**, is beginning its trek through Congress. The sweeping plan to revamp VA health care and eligibility is starting to get closer looks from lawmakers.

After returning from the Labor Day recess, Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., introduced **HR 4060**, which would create a commission to test GI Bill of Health provisions at 20-30 VA medical facilities. Legionnaires are urged to contact their congressional lawmakers and ask them to support both the GI Bill of Health and the test measure, **HR 4060**. □

Would you invest \$5 to help improve your prostate health?

Prostate health: A serious concern for all men.

Most men don't talk about prostate health. Yet research shows that as many as 50 percent of men over the age of 40 will suffer the aggravation, inconvenience and embarrassment associated with prostate problems.

If you suffer from prostate problems you may be waking to go to the bathroom several times a night, too. You may also suffer from painful or slow urination. Or, an urgent feeling to empty your bladder, even when you know it's already empty.

And that's not the entire story. Your prostate's health is also integrally linked to sexual function, which means it may dramatically impact other important aspects of your life, too.

If you're concerned about prostate health, there's something you should know about. It's called Prostaplex™ ... and it's good news!

Prostaplex™, a tool for prostate health.

Years of scientific research have proven the prostate requires specific nutrients to maintain and control healthy prostate size and function. These nutrients help control a hormone that is critical to a healthy prostate.

Bioenergy Nutrients, a leader in the nutraceutical industry, has developed an **exclusive**, comprehensive formula of these powerful nutrients. It's called Prostaplex and it's a powerful ally to prostate health.

In fact, the nutrients in Prostaplex are considered so powerful they're classified as nutraceuticals—a classification reserved for nutrients with specific medical health benefits.

Maintain and control healthy prostate size and function.

Prostate problems are often caused by overproduction of a hormone called DHT, which can lead to an enlarged prostate.

Prostaplex is a comprehensive formula that includes three scientifically proven



nutraceuticals renowned for supporting prostate health. These nutraceuticals, Saw Palmetto, Pygeum and Pumpkin Seed Oil, help block the most common prostate problems. Together, they provide the nutritional ammunition the prostate needs to control and deactivate DHT. Proper DHT levels are essential to the prostate's ability to maintain proper size and control health.

Proven nutraceutical power.

Maintaining good prostate health is also thought to be a factor in helping the body ward off more serious concerns.

That's why Prostaplex also helps you nourish, tone and strengthen the overall health of your reproductive system—for better long term prostate health.

Discover Prostaplex for yourself.

European doctors routinely recommend the ingredients found in Prostaplex to their male patients. Today millions of European men are enjoying vigorous prostate health.

Thousands of our male customers also enjoy the benefits a healthy prostate affords—including a full nights' rest and comfortable urinary function.



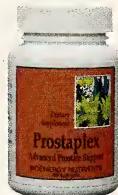
Isn't it time you discovered how Prostaplex can help you, too? Order today.

You can't lose. Try our guaranteed Prostaplex for just \$5 and get a FREE gift too!

We're so convinced you'll benefit from this powerful nutraceutical formula, that we'll send you a 10 day supply for just \$5 and include a **FREE 2-piece stainless steel pocket knife set**—yours just for trying Prostaplex.

For your convenience, fresh shipments will follow every 60 days automatically billed to your credit card at the times of shipment. That's only \$6.46 per week to help protect and maintain your prostate health.

If you're not 100% satisfied, we'll refund all your money—no questions asked. The knife set is yours to keep.



Don't wait another day!

**Call Today
1-800-627-7775**

100% satisfaction guaranteed or your money back.

Yes! I want to try Prostaplex® for just \$5 plus \$3.95 shipping. I'm charging my order to receive my free gifts. I understand I'll receive a 2-piece stainless steel pocket knife set as a FREE gift and that my satisfaction is guaranteed.

charge card number _____

exp. date (month and year) _____

please sign here _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

day time phone number (_____) _____

BIOENERGY NUTRIENTS

6565 Odell Pl.
Boulder, CO 80301

Keycode: PKAL

BOYS RECEIVE MEDALLION OF HONOR

BY NOW, the "works of art" of the Phoenix Art Museum's exhibit, *Old Glory: The American Flag in Contemporary Art*, are familiar to most Legionnaires. What might not be familiar is the story of two young heroes who took on the exhibit for its desecration of our national symbol.

Cisco and Fabian Montoya, the 11-year-old twin boys of Pete Montoya, joined their father in visiting the museum last spring. The family was appalled by one particular exhibit where an American flag had been placed on the floor along with an invitation for visitors to walk across Old Glory, then write their comments in a log. The boys had a better idea.

They gently lifted the flag and, with their father's assistance, reverently folded it



THE FOUR FACES OF VALOR—Cisco and Fabian Montoya compare their medallions with Patrick Brady's Medal of Honor.

and removed it from the disgraceful display. Their actions were cheered by flag supporters, particularly the Citizens Flag Alliance and The American Legion.

To honor their actions, CFA chairman and Medal of Honor recipient Maj. Gen. Patrick H. Brady presented each of the boys and their father with a Medallion of Honor in late September.

The Legion and CFA conducted a special program for the presentation, which took place at the Legion's National Headquarters in Indianapolis.

"These boys know right from wrong, just like most Americans," said Gen. Brady. "They showed an abundance of courage in the face of this gross display, which shows why the vast majority of Americans want the American flag protected from physical desecration." □

Biker "Gang" Supports Community

MEN sporting leather jackets, tattoos and ponytails may not sound like your typical Legionnaires—and they're not. Not typical, that is.

"Just because you ride a bike doesn't make you a punk," says Chuck Dare, better known as Tramp. "We're people just like anyone else, but it always seems like we have to prove that."

And prove it he has. It was early 1994 when Tramp and then-Post Commander "Polka Bill" Kaledas shared a dream at Post 396 in Garden City, Mich. The dream: Bring motorcycle enthusiasts into the Legion family and do more for the community than everyday Post members.

The group has grown from 19 to 33 active Riders from numerous Posts in District 16. Just a few of the deeds they perform for their Posts and communities include donating time and money to the Penickton Center for the Blind, giving to the Garden City Needy Family Fund, participating in VA hospital bingo tournaments, gathering cans for food drives, and riding in numerous "runs" to raise money

for cancer research, provide toys for needy children, and honor fallen comrades.

"There's plenty of people out there less fortunate than you or me, and they deserve to be treated with respect and helped out a little. If bikers have to do that, so be it," says Tramp. "It's gut-wrenching to see those sick kids or the guys at the VA who gave so much for the rest of us. They deserve our thanks, and this is one way to do more than just mouth a few words."

Good feelings aren't the only result of these selfless acts. Increased visibility of the bikers can be a boon for membership. They have pulled in a few new members, and hope to bring in more. Tramp says three riders claim they never considered joining the Legion before, "but now they're three of my strongest supporters."

"Our people genuinely want to be involved. The American Legion Riders brings good people together. We stipulate only that they be members of the Legion family—not just our Post—and own a bike. It doesn't even have to be a Harley," Tramp says. □

TALKING IT UP

THOSE Legionnaires suffering from a visual impairment need not miss their magazine. For several years now, THE TALKING AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE has been available on special cassette to active members at no additional cost.

Proof of need is required to begin receiving the tapes, which come in a version designed to play only on special machines available through the Library of Congress. For more information, please write: THE TALKING AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. □

JUST A REMINDER

KEEP sending in those Legion News items. It's always good to hear from our members about what's going on at the Post level. When writing, please bear these things in mind:

- Space limitations make it impossible to run every item—we receive more than 100 requests each month. Don't forget to send the same information to your Department publications, which may have more room available for reader submissions.

- Photos can enhance a story, but writing on the back with a ball-point pen makes them useless. Please use a felt-tip marker or, even better, attach a separate note. Action shots stand the best chance of publication.

- Because of the high cost of postage and the large number of items we receive each month, we cannot reply to all submissions. And although the greatest care is taken in handling your materials, we cannot be responsible for the return of submissions. All items received, whether published or not, will be given to the National Librarian for filing in the Post archives.

Bearing all this in mind, please send your Legion News materials to: THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. You may also use the above address to request a complete list of guidelines for submissions. □

LEST WE FORGET



Tyler Lee Bentley, the 8-month-old grandson of Gary Streeter, visits the final resting place of his grandfather at Fort Riley, Kan. Tyler reminds all that while only a few were killed during the Persian Gulf War, their families still feel the loss. An Arizona native, and a Vietnam veteran, Gary Streeter has a Post named after him in Prescott Valley, Ariz.

LEGIONNAIRES IN ACTION

POST 158 of Tigard, Ore., moved to its third location in 30 years, while renewing its dedication to the local community.

Katona Post 1575 of New York celebrated its 50th anniversary in September.

Two members, Andri N. Lundgren and Matthew J. O'Leary, had a special reason to celebrate the anniversary: They helped found the Post in 1946.

Walter B. Ellis Post 63 of Burlington, N.C., donated \$500 to purchase American flags for classrooms at local schools. The action was in response to state legislation encouraging, but not requiring, placement of the flag and reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance in each public school classroom.

Post 199 of West Palm Beach, Fla., honored its commander, John Kinney, on the occasion of his 100th birthday. The Post's only World War I veteran, he is the oldest elected Post commander ever in the Legion.

Post 39 of Greenville, N.C., coordinated a gift of 602 "Pledge of Allegiance" posters for distribution to Pitt County schools. Also helping out with the project were **Auxiliary Unit 39**, **Farmville Posts 151 and 372**, **Aydin Post 289** and its Auxiliary Unit.

Dyer-Gunnell Post 180 of Vienna, Va., has opened an Internet home page to provide assistance and information resources to veterans and their beneficiaries. The page offers information about the Post, SAL Squadron and Auxiliary Unit

180, as well as more than 60 links to veterans' organizations. The page can be accessed at <http://www.ncc-1701.com/post180/index.html>.

The Department of Illinois, 1st Division presented state senator Patrick J. O'Malley with a plaque in recognition for supporting a resolution backing an amendment protecting the U.S. Flag from acts of physical desecration.

Arizona Post 94 is in its seventh year of running its Good Neighbor Program.

The program reaches out to the young people of the small communities of El Mirage and Surprise, who have been facing problems with gang violence and drugs spilling over from neighboring Phoenix.

Last year, Legionnaires collected \$13,000 to help finance the program.

Alabama's Madison County Post 237 uses its 15-passenger van to transport veterans to VA hospitals in down-state Birmingham and in Murfreesboro, Tenn. The Legionnaires are also of constant service to residents of a Huntsville veterans' home, visiting shut-ins, donating televisions, and loaning hospital beds, crutches, wheelchairs and other medical equipment to veterans and needy folks in Huntsville.

Hawaii Post 64 members do their part to make life a little more bearable for the homeless and the poor by working at the Light Bringers Rescue Mission in Lahaina, working with indigents, abused women and children, and the elderly. □

THE BOTTOM LINE IS QUALITY CARE

VA's health-care complex is a national asset that must be saved—and strengthened.

INSTEAD of asking the Department of Veterans' Affairs to keep doing more with less revenue, Congress should allow VA to generate the funds it needs to provide better care to more veterans.

Speaking last month before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees, as well as a standing-room-only crowd of Legionnaires, National Commander Joseph J. Frank posed that very challenge—and offered as a solution the GI Bill of Health. Frank told the lawmakers the proposal, developed by The American Legion, will reinvigorate the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). In that mission, veterans advocates and lawmakers are on the same side:

"We want to make the pursuit of quality health care for veterans a winning situation, one in which we're on

ON THE HILL—Natl. Cmdr. Frank delivered the Legion call for action to revamp the VA health-care system for all veterans and their families.

"Together, we can make affordable what our collective conscience tells us is necessary. That is why The American Legion developed the GI Bill of Health."

Frank told lawmakers most in the veterans' community embrace the principles embodied in the GI Bill of Health: eligibility reform, use of alternative funding sources, streamlining VA management, protecting VA's specialized services and advancing its unique missions serving veterans.

By opening the system to Medicare, CHAMPUS, Tri-Care and other third-

solid ground economically and ethically," said Frank.

party payers, the GI Bill of Health will alter how veterans pay for VA care, allowing VA to expand health-care delivery to more veterans, military retirees and their families.

Frank urged Congress to cost out and implement demonstration projects—such as a current Medicare subvention initiative—to test new and innovative solutions to make VA health care accessible to more veterans. Those solutions, he said, involve a combination of VA and private sector funding based on the principles of managed care.

"The surest way to improve, strengthen and preserve VA is to open up new funding streams. Allow VA to expand its patient base to serve more



PHOTO BY JOE LEWIS



TABLE TALK—Sen. Kit Bond of Missouri greets Nat'l. Legislative Commission Chairman Charles Pesso before introducing Cmdr. Frank to members of Senate and House Veterans' Affairs committees.

MESSAGE POINTS—Robert Johnson, past Dept. Cmdr. of Maryland, meets with his senator, Paul Sarbanes, to explain the legislative priorities of The American Legion.



veterans and their immediate dependents," Frank told the joint congressional panel.

Under current statutes, VA medical centers can't retain money for the care they provide on site. Under the GI Bill of Health, VA medical centers could—and have the freedom to apply that money to patient care, renovation and upgrades in medical technology, just like private hospitals operating under managed-care principles.

Where the bad news has been that not all catastrophically ill veterans could fall back on the VA, the good news is the GI Bill of Health would allow these veterans to once again count on the Department of Veterans' Affairs to fulfill the nation's pact with veterans to provide them with health care.

Where the bad news has been that the VA has been financially strained to meet its basic mission of free care for veterans with service-connected disabilities rated 50 percent or more, the good news under the GI Bill of Health is that new efficiencies and income to flow from greater flexibility will ease that strain and allow faster and more complete ser-

vice to all special category veterans.

Thus veterans with a service-connected disability rated at less than 50 percent and impoverished veterans would have reliable access to VA services at no charge, or at a reduced charge.

While the VHA has had long seasons of bad news flowing from too little money, too many regulatory restraints, and too much time taken to straighten out eligibility problems, the GI Bill of Health proposes a systemic fix that addresses all problems through basic reform.

"Over the past two years," Frank said, "VHA has made significant progress in transforming an antiquated hospital-based health care system into a patient-centered system. Restructurings of both its field and headquarters operations are major steps in developing a new vision for the nation's largest integrated

health-care system."

"The American Legion believes that even though VA's health-care system is beset with many problems, VA has many assets, and successful reform is possible," said Frank. "The American Legion sees VA's health-care system as a national resource worth improving, strengthening and preserving for future generations."

As for its prospects of passage during the 105th Congress, the National Commander pointed to another Legion-supported reform plan intended to help veterans: the original GI Bill of Rights. That landmark legislation transformed America for the better, but few remember today the original article passed by a single vote. Frank said today's service members are as deserving of the nation's best efforts, no less than their predecessors who benefited from the original GI Bill:

"We find ourselves today at that same crossroads," Frank said. "There are plenty of reasons for not taking aggressive steps to improve, strengthen and preserve VA, some are fiscal, some are philosophical, some are emotional.

"A good reason for enacting the GI Bill of Health is that, right now, around the world, young men and women in uniforms of the United States armed forces are ready to protect and defend freedom and democracy. They, too, deserve a dedicated health-care network," he said.

Frank's remarks were well received by the joint panel. "We commend you on the GI Bill of Health," said Rep. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. "It's been my experience that Legionnaires continue to serve America long after they're out of uniform, and I think that's obvious this morning."

Indeed, several members used the same phrase—"right on target"—to describe Frank's testimony. In a comment that drew rousing applause from the hundreds of Legionnaires in attendance, Rep. Frank Mas-
cara, D-Pa., added, "I think we need to get the show on the road as it relates to health care for our veterans in this country, and I support that 100 percent." □

No VA physician should ever have to tell a veteran, 'I can't treat you because of eligibility restrictions.'

The Veterans' Connection

VETS® is a service that provides information about military reunions, helps veterans find old buddies and arranges reunions, travel and accommodations.

REUNION INFORMATION

This month there are 520 military reunions listed on these pages. In addition, VETS® has information on more than 12,000 other reunions. Call weekdays, 12 noon to 8 p.m., CDT. Calls cost \$1.95 per minute. The average call takes three minutes.

1 (900) 737-VETS

1 (900) 737-8387

If you know the VETS® five-digit number assigned to your ship or unit, please give it to the operator. The number is printed after each outfit's name listed in the magazine. If you don't know the number or do not see your ship or unit listed in the magazine, VETS® operators might still be able to provide you reunion information. Units are enrolling in VETS® daily.

PLANNING A REUNION

VETS® will help you arrange your outfit's reunion at no cost and save money in the process. Finders/Seekers® services are included free for VETS® managed reunions. VETS® also will maintain reunion coordinators' mailing lists and unit archives, and handle all reunion publicity needs. Tell us what you want, and we will do the work.

REUNION FACILITIES & TRAVEL

Call **VETSTRAVEL**. You'll get the lowest possible hotel, banquet, tour and travel rates.

1 (800) 844-VETS

1 (800) 844-8387

FINDING A BUDDY

Looking for a buddy or long lost relative? Finders/Seekers® service will send you a computer listing of names, addresses and phone numbers of people in the United States who have the same name as the person you're seeking. Finders/Seekers® guarantees you will get at least one name that matches, or it will refund your money. Search fees are \$15 per name. Allow six weeks for a reply.

Write: **Finders/Seekers®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901**; or call (800) 449-VETS, MasterCard/VISA accepted.

OUTFIT REUNIONS

Reunion coordinators can enroll their units in VETS® by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to **VETS®, P.O. Box 901, Columbia, MO 65205-0901**. Unit names are published one time per year.

ARMY

1st Cav Div, 61st FA Bn #23105
1st Cav Div, 7th Rgt, 2nd Bn, H Co (Korea, 50/51) #19856

1st Eng Spec 8de, 479th Amphib Truck Co

1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 2nd Bn, O Co (67/68) #13688

1st Inf Div, 16th Rgt, 3rd Bn, Roosevelt Barracks, Berlin, Germany #19167

1st Inf Div, 26th Rgt, X Co (46-52) #15603

1st Inf Div, 28th Rgt, 1st Bn, B Co (VN 65-66) #19584

2nd Arm'd Div, 48th ABM (Ger, 51-52) #23292

2nd Eng Spec 8de (Incl assigned units) #11809

3rd Army, 664th Topo Engrs Co (ETO, WWII) #10217

3rd FA Rgt, 2nd Bn, A Btry (Butzbach, Ger) #13235

3rd Inf Div, 68th Arm'd, A Co (57-59) #15614

3rd Inf Div, 92nd Artillery Co #22974

4th Arm'd Inf Assn #16402

5th Inf Gen Hospital (WWII) #15658

5th Inf Div Assn (Wkly) #1428

5th Inf Div, 50th Inf Regt (Hawaii, 50-56) #13836

5th Inf Div, 2nd Rgt, I Co (WWII) #15837

5th Inf Div, 46th FA Br #16020

6th Inf Army, 72nd Amphib Trac Bn (PTO WWII) #14200

6th Inf, 544th FA Bn (Luzon '45) #19474

6th Inf Rgt, McNaull Bks (Berlin, 50-55) #22410

7th FA Assn #10368

7th Inf Div, 32nd Inf Rgt "Queens Own" (WWII) #15855

7th Inf Div, All Assn (U.S.) #16219

9th Arm'd Div, 2nd Med Bn, C Co #15282

9th Arm'd Div, 89th Recon, E Trg #20230

9th Inf Div, 39th Rgt, F Co (WWII) #10291

9th Inf Div, Mobile Airborne Force Assn (VN) #22977

10th Inf Div, 6th Rgt, I Co (Fl Riley, 51-52) #22905

11th A/B Inf Div, 511th Para Inf Rgt, D Co #22282

12th Inf Div Assn (Int Central Chap) #16476

12th Army Hq, Spec Ops (ETO WWII) #28424

16th Arm'd Div #10170

20th Corps, 3rd Corp 3d Recon Sq "Ghost Troops" #20981

22nd AAA Btrgs A-D (50-52) #22323

21st Arty Grp/22nd Arty, 6th Bn (Fl Lewis, WA 62-64) #19769

24th Inf Div, 21st Rgt, L Co (Korea, 50-51) #12001

24th Inf Div, 2nd Bn, 7th Arm'd, C Co (66/67) #23306

25th Inf Div, 13th Arty, 3rd (How) Bn, B Btry (HI, 59-61) #17245

25th Inf Div, 35th Rgt, L Co (Korea/WII/VN) #12469

25th Inf Div Assn #20037

25th Inf Div (SASC) Luzon P.I. Liberators #19285

26th Inf Div, Scout Ong Ptn (Korea, 53-54) #17647

27th Inf Div (3rd Inf Abt) #16534

27th Inf Rgt Hist Soc Inc (VN) #11844

28th Inf Div, Gen'l (51-53) #16655

31st Inf Div, 198th Tank Bn (Korea) #19810

32nd Inf Div, Red Arrow Club (FL Chap) #21786

34th Inf Div, 16th Bgt Rgt #15842

37th Field Hospital (WWII) #13888

39th Inf Gen'l (NZ/Saipan, WWII) #15544

40th Div, 140th AAA Bn AW 8n (SP) (Korea 51-53) #10980

43rd Inf Div, 43rd Recon Co (Ger 51-53) #19954

44th/55th AAA Bde #5(3-5) #2748

44th Eng'C Bn Assn (ETO WWII) #19350

44th Inf Div, 63rd Eng'C Bn, A Co #11235

45th Inf Bn Assn #10368

45th Inf Div, MP Co (Korea) #16003

45th Portable Surg Hospital #23805

46th Sig Hwy Com Bn (VN) #10944

47th Inf Div, 125th FA, A Btry (Korea) #16010

47th Inf Div, 125th FA Bn, Btry C (Camp Rucker, 51-53) #23298

47th Inf Div, 164th Rgt, Service Co #22882

48/235th 110th Inf Eng C (C) #15644

51st Gen Hosp (New Guinea/Pi WWII) #16320

52nd Med 8n (WWII) #15583

53rd EAC, A-G 81rys, 1/2, 3/3 Bn Hqs (42-44) #12593

56th Inf Hospital #16239

60th Gen Hospital (WWII) #20062

62nd Sig Bn, A Co (VN) #12150

63rd Inf Div Assn, 253rd Inf Rgt, F Co (WWII) #10335

65th Sig Bn, 251st Inf Serv Co #14450

68th AAA Gun 8n (Korea 50-54) #16721

68th Inf Regt Comp Co #15418

69th Arm'd Div (All Yrs) #12212

69th Inf Div Assn #11615

70th/90th Coastal Artillery AA (PL WWII) #19859

70th Inf Div, 274th Rgt, G Co #20129

75th Inf, O Co, Rangers & Arctic Rangers (VN/AK) #2193

75th Rangers, Echo Co/aka 50th Inf A/B Rgt, Echo Co (LRP), Vn #22548

76th Inf Div Assn #15636

76th Inf Div, 130th Med Bn, B Co (Italy, WWII) #14277

76th Inf Div, 310th Med Bn, B Co (Italy, WWII) #15200

76th Inf Div Assn #15637

76th Inf Div, 317th Inf Rgt (WWII) #13902

76th Inf Div, 314th Inf Rgt, I Co (VII) #20200

76th Inf Div, 343rd Inf Rgt, 3rd Bn #20521

76th Inf Div, 39th Inf Rgt #10691

91st Gen Hospital (VII) #15725

91st Inf Div, 161th FA Bn #22262

97th Inf Div, 322nd Med 8n #11668

97th Inf Div, 368th Rgt, I Co #16338

99th Inf Div Assn #16559

100th Hwy Trans Serv, 4611/4612/9th QM Thru Co (VII) #10905

100th Inf Div, 37th FA Bn #16493

100th Inf Div, Fl Chapter #15483

100th Inf Div AW 8n (VII) #10333

100th Inf Div, 30th Inf Rgt, HQ Btry #21551

103rd Inf Div, 40th Inf Rgt, 2nd Bn (WWII) #14133

104th Inf Div, Atlantic Timberwolf Assn (WWII) #22779

109th Trans Bn, HQ/HQ Co (France, 50-54) #22905

117th Gen Hospital (VII) #10807

138th/198th/452nd FA Bn Assn #10370

147th Inf Rgt, K Co #20100

148th Inf Rgt (VN) #15361

149th Inf Gen Hospital (Hi/Saipan) #10079

150th Eng C (Gen) Corp (VN) #16861

150th Eng C (Gen) Corp (TKO WWII) #18661

156th Eng C (Gen) Corp (VN) #15981

126th Eng/C BN #10546

147th Eng Maint Co #19477

1903rd Eng BN, SCARWAF (WWII, Korea 50-53) #11386

1938th Eng BN (A-46) #19812

3110th Sig Bn, 8 Co (Paris, WWII) #20885

3405th (aka 67th) Inf, D Co (Co) (WWII) #15655

3838 QM Gas Supply Co #23232

4025th Sig Grp Corp (VN) #3169/316th Sig Grp Bns, Seaborne Comm Del (VII) #19781

8221st Flg Topy Art & Mel Det (Korea) #21795

ASA: 501st Comm Rec Grp Corp (Korea, 50's) #23417

Camp Gordon Johnston Assn #23367

Chosin (Fly Army Chap) #16532

Constabulary Veterans of America #21555

DOD POW/MIA Rep Agency #16997

Gen Ord Depat (Nancy, FR) #21743

Graves Registration (All Units) #23111

IRTC, 98th Regt, 17th Bn, B Co (Camp Head, 45) #23268

Los Angeles MPs #23295

Ludwigsburg Officers/EU Clubs (Mil/Civ, 60-63) #13506

MTP Senry Dogs Alumni (VN) #13909

Niigata Mil Govt Team Japan, 45-48 #23225

O'Reilly Gen Hospital (VN) #10617

Ret Army Nurse Corps Assn #16624

Retired MP Assn #16007

Valley Forge Hospital Burn Ward (Incl Nurses/Civ/IC, Korea) #19760

XIII Corps Assn (VN) #15530

503rd MP 8n (Italy) #19931

504th MP BN #17787

505th MP Bn, A/B/C Units (WWII) #16147

510th Tank Bn (Sullivan Bks, 51-57) #23226

515th FA Bn (Sullivan Bks, 51-57) #16823

518th AAA Gun Bn (VN) #10991

551st Inf Div Assn #20107

554th Inf Div Assn #20108

555th Inf Div Assn #20109

556th Inf Div Assn #20110

557th Inf Div Assn #20111

558th Inf Div Assn #20112

559th Inf Div Assn #20113

560th Inf Div Assn #20114

561st Inf Div Assn #20115

562nd Inf Div Assn #20116

563rd Inf Div Assn #20117

564th Inf Div Assn #20118

565th Inf Div Assn #20119

566th Inf Div Assn #20120

567th Inf Div Assn #20121

568th Inf Div Assn #20122

569th Inf Div Assn #20123

570th Inf Div Assn #20124

571st Inf Div Assn #20125

572nd Inf Div Assn #20126

573rd Inf Div Assn #20127

574th Inf Div Assn #20128

575th Inf Div Assn #20129

576th Inf Div Assn #20130

577th Inf Div Assn #20131

578th Inf Div Assn #20132

579th Inf Div Assn #20133

580th Inf Div Assn #20134

581st Inf Div Assn #20135

582nd Inf Div Assn #20136

583rd Inf Div Assn #20137

584th Inf Div Assn #20138

585th Inf Div Assn #20139

586th Inf Div Assn #20140

587th Inf Div Assn #20141

588th Inf Div Assn #20142

589th Inf Div Assn #20143

590th Inf Div Assn #20144

591st Inf Div Assn #20145

592nd Inf Div Assn #20146

593rd Inf Div Assn #20147

594th Inf Div Assn #20148

595th Inf Div Assn #20149

596th Inf Div Assn #20150

597th Inf Div Assn #20151

598th Inf Div Assn #20152

599th Inf Div Assn #20153

600th Inf Div Assn #20154

601st Inf Div Assn #20155

602nd Inf Div Assn #20156

603rd Inf Div Assn #20157

604th Inf Div Assn #20158

605th Inf Div Assn #20159

606th Inf Div Assn #20160

607th Inf Div Assn #20161

608th Inf Div Assn #20162

609th Inf Div Assn #20163

610th Inf Div Assn #20164

611th Inf Div Assn #20165

612th Inf Div Assn #20166

613th Inf Div Assn #20167

614th Inf Div Assn #20168

615th Inf Div Assn #20169

616th Inf Div Assn #20170

617th Inf Div Assn #20171

618th Inf Div Assn #20172

619th Inf Div Assn #20173

</div

The Famous Guy Lombardo Waltzes

Never Offered Before

Tennessee Waltz
Girl Of My Dreams
Fascination
Carolina Moon
Now Is The Hour
When I Grow Too Old To Dream
Till We Meet Again
Charmaine
Alice Blue Gown
The Blue Skirt Waltz
Tenderly
In Apple Blossom Time
Goodnight Sweetheart
Always
Missouri Waltz
Let The Rest Of The World Go By
Harbor Lights
After The Ball
Tales From The Vienna Woods
Three O'Clock In The Morning
Easter Parade
Beautiful Ohio
By The Light Of The Silvery Moon
Merry Go Round Waltz



Of all the beautiful records Guy Lombardo ever made, his waltzes were the most loved. The single most requested of all his hits was a waltz. The combination of waltz music and Guy's mellow sound was irresistible. Now here are the most loved waltzes Guy ever recorded in one remarkable 2 treasury set. You get 24 all-time favorites played in the smooth and melodious Guy Lombardo style. We unconditionally guarantee you'll enjoy this record, tape and CD collection like none you've ever owned. Mail no-risk coupon today.

The Beautiful Music Company, Dept. GW-98

320 Main Street
Northport, NY 11768

Please rush me the beautiful Guy Lombardo treasury on your unconditional money-back guarantee.

I enclose \$12.98. Send 2 Cassettes.

I enclose \$12.98. Send 2 Records.

I enclose \$16.98. Send 1 Double Length Compact Disc.

No postage or handling. We pay all the charges.

**FREE
SHIPPING!**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Prostate Relief Naturally

It's a known fact. If you don't already have a prostate disorder and you're over 40, it's a two to one bet that you will by the age of 59. Most American men suffer from enlarged prostates by the time they are 65.

It begins with mild discomfort, but as the years pass, it can become disabling. The second most common surgery for men over 65 is prostate surgery. This surgery often causes loss of bladder control as well as sexual problems, including impotence.

The highly touted prescription drugs usually don't end the suffering, though if taken for a long period of time, they may halt the swelling. However, the side effects include a diminished sex drive and inadequate erections.

Many scientists feel that prostate problems can be deterred or the symptoms relieved by supplying the prostate with the nutrients it needs.

Important scientific research has demonstrated that you can safely relieve the problems associated with prostate malfunctions. The results of this research have been published in *The American Journal of Gerontology*, *The British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, and in publications of the National Cancer Institute.

"The doctors wanted to perform surgery on me, but now Pymoxin has virtually eliminated all the problems I was having. You saved me a lot of pain and a big medical bill."

—Mr. D. Goris, Hawaii

"I stopped taking my prescription and started taking Pymoxin. In just eight days, I had my first undisturbed night of sleep and began urinating normally."

—Mr. T. Szilas, California



Men taking Pymoxin Say:

Stop the repeated trips to the bathroom every night!

Halt the burning feeling during or after urination!

Regain bladder control!

Completely empty your bladder!

Regain firm erections and become virile again!



Sidney L. Snow, M.D., a urologist, says: "An astonishing 80% of men will eventually get a prostate disorder. Prevention is the key. For many patients I see in my practice, the Serenoa contained in Pymoxin has led to significant improvements in nocturnal frequency, urgency and, even to some extent, potency functions."

The least expensive insurance against dreadful prostate problems is Pymoxin, which costs as little as a dollar a day. If you are not satisfied for any reason, you can return the unused portion within 30 days for a full product refund.

It's obvious why many men over the age of 40 are taking Pymoxin daily. For protection and relief, order Pymoxin today.

"The second day after taking Pymoxin, the pain and throbbing declined and urination became easier. After further use, everything got better and better, plus I became a man again (sexually), I can't thank you enough."

—Mr. W. Simms, Virginia.

"In just 14 days of taking Pymoxin, I can sincerely tell you that the difference is astonishing. I've stopped waking up at night, and the discomfort is gone."

—Mr. M. Samacona, N.Y.

S & G Laboratories, Dept. 309
368-253 College St., Toronto, ON, M5T 1R5

Six-month supply only \$109.95 (save \$70) plus \$4 S & H
 Two-month supply only \$49.95 (save \$10) plus \$4 S & H
 One-month supply of Pymoxin only \$29.95 plus \$4 S & H

* This is based on the recommended minimum dosage.

Check enclosed \$ _____ or bill my credit card:
(Use two 32¢ Stamps when mailing your order to Canada)

Visa/MC/American Express/Disc _____ Exp. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Ph(____) _____

Or call 1-800-406-1307, Ext. 309

VETS

Continued from page 40

WAVES: MCAS El Toro (Incl Co 76, 51-57) #30109

AIR FORCE

- 1st/69th Pilotless Bombs Sq #18802
- 1st Radio Sq Mbl (50-53) (aka 6/920th Security Grp (53-deact. Japan) #23426)
- 2nd 8omb Assn (Tna 8omb Grp WWII/2nd 8omb Wing SAC) #15135
- 7th AF, Hq/Hq Sq (ETO WWII) #20455
- 8th AF, 1st SAD (Honington-Trotton, Eng, 42-46) #16840
- 8th AF, 303rd 8omb Grp (H) (WWII) #22625
- 8th AF, 355th Ftr Grp (Slepte Morden Eng, WWII) #16785
- 8th AF, 487th 8omb Grp (H) (WWII) #10463
- 10th Air Div, 66th FIS #2376
- 11th/12th Tac Recon Sqns, 616th Weather Flt (Korea, 50-54) #18951

15th Radio Sq Mbl (Ashiya, 51-55) #22250

31st Hq Grp, 303rd 8omb Grp (Japan) #17171

33th Air Recon Sq (Japan) #11497

37th TCS (US 56th TCS/MAS) #19378

53rd AF Main Maint Sq (Spaniard Fort, Ger 69-74) #23356

50th Air Police Sq (Bremervorwerk, Ger 69-74) #22799

64th Ftr Wing, 82nd/328th Ftr Ctl Sqns, 582nd Air Warn #20008

66th TC Sq #22769

67th Air Rescue Sq (Prestwick, Scot, 46-66) #23198

75th Air Detour Wing (52-56) #15053

75th Ftr Intercep Sq (Presque Isle/Dover AF) #21876

95th 8omb Wing, 8-36-8 (El Paso, 59-66) #22790

98th Air Refueling Sq #19935

121st TAC Ftr Sq #23423

319th FIS (Bunker Hill, Korea; Homestead) #15094

339th Ftr Sq Assn (47-58) #17077

355th Ftr Cntrl Wing (NY) #19991

374th Aeriel Pwr Sq (Clark AFB, PI) #19659

376th Air Serv Sq #12158

395th Sig Assn (C) #30018

601st ACS (Ger, 69/54) #19608

6119th Comd Sq (Rafalton Pt, Guam 46-49) #18910

750th Sector (75th TCS/TAS/MAS) #10288

903rd ACS W/S #223243

908x04 (EDX) Camp Fields (Medical, Public Health Services, All Yrs) #18784

1271st AAC (Elan FR 54-60) #11395

1602d Air Base Wing (Prestwick, Scot 46-66) #23201

1631st Air Base Grp (Prestwick, Scot 46-66) #23200

2176th Comm Sq (Prestwick, Scot 46-66) #23199

3918th Airbase Trans Sq/Barracks and Hygiene Minutemen (Eng 60-63) #21936

6160th Air Police Sq (51-53) #23306

7122nd Air Police Sq #19986

213/405/502 Schools, Dept of Admin Trng #11325

Air Police School, Flight 1045 (Lackland AF 56-57) #23329

Air Rescue Assn #15155

8011g 25-Bunch (Belling AF) #21441

Crash Rescuse Read Assn #14647

Da 1000 (2322) (Mug, Lehr, Ge-66) #22933

Da 408 USAF (Recruiting New Orleans) #19485

Pilot Cess 2-6 & 11/12

SAC PACCS/ACCS (Crew/Staff/Comm/Maint 60-91) #13283

Wake Island Defenders #17173

ARMY AIR FORCE

- 2nd AF, Ho/Hq Sq (Spokane/Colorado Springs, WWII) #10232
- 2nd SAD (Little Slough/Abbots Ripton) #16861
- 3rd BAD Assn (Air Depot Grp) #14673
- 4th Emerg Rescuse Sq (SW Pacific, WWII) #16809
- 5th AF, 22nd 8omb Grp Sq #17722
- 5th AF, 65th Serv Sq (PTB) #14277
- 5th AF, 8th Ftr Grp, 8th Ftr Wing #20419
- 5th AF, 80th 8omb Grp (WV) #10462
- 6th 8omb Grp (VH) (Tinian) #15138
- 8th AF, 356th Ftr Grp, 75 8omb Sq, 361st & HQ Sq (WWII) #16299
- 8th AF, 36th 8omb Grp (H) (ETO, WWII) #16890
- 8th AF, 41st 8omb Grp (Burwood, Eng) #16813
- 8th AF, 55th 8omb Grp (H) Assn (WWII) #16819
- 8th AF Historical Society #12388
- 9th AF Assn, Inc (Ind AF) #10097
- 9th 8omb Grp Assn (Tinian, WWII) #20285
- 13th AF, 42 8omb Grp, 75 8omb Sq (B-25s, Solomons/PI, WWII) #20882
- 14th AF Assn "Flying Tigers" #11447
- 19th TC Sq (Southern Cross) #16852
- 22nd Ftr 8omb Sq (Furstenfeldbruck/Bilburg, '51/54) #19819
- 27th TC Sq #10345
- 31st Ftr Grp, 307th Ftr Sq #23191
- 31st Ftr Grp, 308th Ftr Sq #23192
- 31st Pursuit Grp, 30th Pursuit Sq #23188
- 31st Pursuit Grp, 40th Pursuit Sq #23189
- 31st Pursuit Grp, 41st Pursuit Sq #23190

49th Air Depel Grp (Incl Attch Units, WWII) #16944

51st Ftr Grp Assn (WWII) #10947

79th Airforce Sq (WWII) #22017

365th Ftr Grp/Fr 8omb Wing/Tac Ftr Wing (WWII-Present) #16988

382nd Enr Grp, 59th Enr Sq #10197

410th 8omb Grp Assn (WWII) #20288

43rd Ftr Grp, 78th TC Sq (WWII) #20236

442nd TAC, 78th TC Sq #14226

454th 8omb Grp (Italy, WWII) #16909

458th Air Serv Sq (Ademarone, Italy) #19802

483rd 8omb Grp (H), 359th/565th Air Engrs (WWII) #16904

483rd 8omb Grp, 868th Sq (WWII) #22348

504th 8omb Grp Assn (WWII) #20859

595th SAW 8ans #15411

Avn Cadet Class 42 #10061

Casper Army Air Field (WWII) #23237

Ftr Control Sq 306/312/316/431 & 29th TAC Air Command #21973

Pecos AF, TX #14281

Pilot Class 43-C (Central Flying Trng Comm) #11117

Pilot Class 44-B (Bythelle, AR) #23264

Santa Anna Army Air Base (WWII) #16719

Tuskegee Airmen Inc (WWII) #10016

MARINES

1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 1st Bn, 8th C Co (Korea, 50-51) #13951

1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (WWII) #21297

1st Mar Div, 1st Rgt, 3rd Bn, How Co (Korea) #20066

1st Mar Div, 1st Scout/Recon Co (WWII) #21993

1st Mar Div, 5th Rgt, 2nd Bn, F Co (VN) #22715

1st Mar Div, 7th Rgt, 2nd Bn, D Co (Korea 50-55) #12199

1st Mar Div, 7th Rgt, 3rd Bn, I Co (Korea-Now) #17179

1st Mar Div, 9th Eng Sq (VN, 65-70) #13183

1st Prov Marine Sq (Korea) #17180

2nd Airborne Div, 17th AAC AA BN (WWII) #21009

2nd Mar Div Assn (All ars) #10359

3rd Mar Div, 3rd Rgt, 3rd Bn "Stormy Sextons" Assn (61-62) #10550

3rd Mar Div, 9th Rgt, 1st Bn, (VN) #12988

5th Mar, Division, 2nd Rgt, 3rd Bn, K Co (VN 66-67) #11351

5th Mar Div, 28th Rgt, 1st Bn, C Co (Iwo Jima, 45) #22894

6th Mar Div Assn (Nat'l) #17188

7th Del AA Bn Assn (40-45) #22026

10th Del AA Bn (WWII) #17080

Avn Supply Marines (West) #17127

Mojave Desert Mar Corps Assn (WWII) #21035

Photo Sq VMD-154 (VN/VWII) #11175

Recruit Pltn, Paris Island #23365

USS Mississippi 88-1/41 EAG-128 (Mar Det) #17236

USS Missouri 88-1/41 EAG-129 (Mar Det) #23263

VMF-322 (VH) #23300

VMF-351 (VH) #14346

VMF-352 (VM) #23303

VMF-353 (VM) #17184

VMFS-241 (VM) #17184

COAST GUARD

FS-169/309 #19138

IX-50, AD-45, WSC-138/139/140/153 (Greenland PII 40-45) #23141

Loran Station: Atka, AK CG Unit 62 (46-47) #23424

LST-22 (WVII) #19091

LST-866 (WVII) #17034

PF-41 El Paso (Pfr Frigate Assn) #10888

PF-60 Charlotte Pfr Frigate Assn #23304

PF-99 Dragon Pfr Frigate Assn #23285

USCGC Biddle WHEC-31 (All Yrs) #18986

USCGC Burin WAGB-263 Assn #22413

USCGC Dexter WABE-309 #19877

USCGC Ingham W-35 #1977

USCGC Modoc W-46 (W Atlantic Conveys, 41-45) #17036

USCGC Mohawk WPC-47 #17012

USCGC Tampa L10804

USCGC Winnibigoshish W-4/PD-40/USCGC Chautauqua W-41 #17056

USS 8th Pft-55 Assn #19168

USS Calcutta DE-390 (WWII) #20971

USS Erieaus RC-92 (WWII) #23301

USS Leonard Wood AP-12 (Inl Navy) #17048

USS Muskrake PF-49 #17045

USS Ogden PF-39 #12569

USS Rhodes DE-384 #17068

VP-6, 58-54 Catalinas (Greenland PII 40-45) #12336

WAG 46/27/24/25/27/26/29/280 (Greenland PII 40-45) #23145

WAGL 38/27/29/25/300 (Greenland PII 40-45) #12342

WPG 47/48/49/54/55/59 (Greenland PII 40-45) #23143

WPG 47/48/49/54/55/59 (Greenland PII 40-45) #23143

WIS-100/100 Assn (Nat'l) #18073

8urfland Assn (All) #21734

Iwo Jima Commemorative CA #28324

Iwo Jima Survivors Assn #14355

Midwest Iwo Jima Vets #23421

MISCELLANEOUS

593rd JASCD Assn #18073

8urfland Assn (All) #21734

Iwo Jima Commemorative CA #28324

Iwo Jima Survivors Assn #14355

Midwest Iwo Jima Vets #23421

TUG OF WAR

Continued from page 18

American Legion contributed one dollar, almost \$3 million would flow into the project's coffers.

"We don't want to give the impression that this campaign is strictly for Legionnaires or veterans," Beutler said. "We encourage anyone who appreciates what the *Hoga*'s crewmembers and tradeges fought for to help save this little tug."

Members of The American Legion family who care to help save the *Hoga* can send donations to: The American Legion Department of Hawaii, c/o the *Hoga* (VT-146) Committee, 612 McCully St., Honolulu, HI 96826. For donations of \$30 or more, call (800) 444-6458.

IN SEARCH OF...

This column is for readers searching for groups of veterans for purposes other than forming a veterans' VETS column or to find witnesses to verify VA health claims (use COMRADES IN DISTRESS column). No notices seeking information about relatives or friends will be published. Notices are published free, on a space-available basis. If a notice does not appear within six months of submission, please resubmit.

Former members of the Berlin Horse Platoon Honor Guard, 1945-1952 for book research. Contact Frank Livers, 9403 E. V. Ave., Vicksburg, MS 49097. Pearl Harbor attack witnesses to aircraft crashes or who visited crashed aircraft and those who helped aircraft get into the air anytime that day for book research. Contact: David Aiken, 502 Ball St., Weatherford, TX 76086-2408.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a WWII SBD Dauntless Dive Bomber in any condition. Contact: Gil Derrenberger, 1421 Kent Ave., Woodland, MD 21207.

Any Marine from C/1/7 1st Marine Div. who has knowledge of or was on patrol "C-4." Feb. 17, 1968, information is needed. Contact: Al Granados, P.O. Box 513, Eureka, CA 95502.

Crew members of the USS Waccamaw AO-109 (1945-1958). Contact: Charles H. Fuller, 7700 Charlesmont Road, Baltimore, MD 21222.

Anyone who served in Vietnam/Santa Anna, Calif. with the unit HMH-361 from 1968 to 1971 for research on this elite squadron of CH-53s. Contact: Rhonda Frye, 6678 E. Harsh Road, Nineveh, MD 26164.

Anyone who served at Burtwood AB, Warrington, England from 1942 to 1993. Contact: Richard Iwanowski, 4515 W. 55th St., Chicago, IL 60632. Those who served with Navy VF-104/VA-104 (1952-1955), Cecil Field, Fla. Contact: Roger L. Spencer, R1, Box 169, Santa Ana, NC 27044.

The crew of a ship departing Noumea, New Caledonia Feb. 3, 1944: Bora Bora Feb. 2, 1944 and reportedly Tongareva en route to USA. Contact: H.J. Wohlfert, 3212 Fleet St., Baltimore, MD 21224.

Anyone who served on USLester while stationed in the Naval Yard Boston in 1963 or before for book research. Contact: Michael Rood, 33850 Emilia Lane, Fremont, CA 94555.

Anyone interested in attending the Annual Convocation of the Iwo Jima Survivors of New York, 1997. Contact: James Waunsch, P.O. Box 491, Levittown, NY 11756.

Members of Company H 36th Engineer Combat Regiment, Company F 540th Combat Engineer Regt for info. on WWII Presidential Unit Citation. Contact: John T. Fallon, 2459 First Ave., Avalon, NJ 08202.

JAPANESE WAR CRIMES!

★ ★ Murder Under The Sun.....ON VIDEO! ★ ★

FIRST
TIME
ON VIDEO

JAPANESE WAR CRIMES

MURDER UNDER THE SUN

Here it is! The complete and previously untold story of the savage treatment of our P.O.W.s during WWII. Using shocking film footage and grim testimony of survivors, you will learn the gruesome details of what it was like to be held a prisoner by the Japanese.

Known as the "Forgotten Holocaust", being a prisoner of the Japanese was more lethal than fighting them...1 in 3 died in captivity. The ways in which prisoners died (murder by fire, disease, beheading, dissection and starvation) will appall and outrage you.

It's all here...from the *Bataan Death March* to the *Burma-Siam "Death Railway"* and the trials that followed.

While we all are aware of the death and carnage caused by the Nazi's, until now, few of us have ever known the truth about the *Japanese War Crimes & Trials*. Don't miss this very important chapter in American history -- it will

haunt you forever! **WARNING:** Graphic and disturbing footage.

#10288 *Japanese War Crimes & Trails* (50 minutes/Color & B&W)

Order Today! ONLY....\$19.98!



Credit Card orders call toll-free 24 hours: (1U94)
1-800-959-0061 Ext. JW6

Or send your name and address with check or money order for \$19.98 plus \$3.95 shipping & handling to:
Fusion Video, 100 Fusion Way, Dept. JW6, Country Club Hills, IL 60478

Canadian orders must add \$5.00 S&H and pay in U.S. funds. (Please note: Illinois residents must add 7.75% state sales tax.)

Visit our web site at <http://fusionvideo.com> ★ ★ Fax your orders to: 708-799-8375



Introducing the Revolutionary

DR® POWER WAGON™

NEW!

• HAULS UP TO 800 LBS.
with never-before-ease! • BIG
POWER-DRIVEN WHEELS &
4 speed transaxle lets you move
slow or fast over rough or
smooth terrain. POWER
REVERSE gets
you out of tight
spots!



TOLL
FREE
1(800)
435-4664

• Dump
bed makes for easy
unloading of gravel, soil,
firewood and rocks. • Made to order
for suburban/rural property owners, plus
businesses of any size: pays for itself over
and over in time and labor saved!

© 1996 CHP, INC.

Please mail this coupon today for **FREE DETAILS** about the Revolutionary **DR POWERWAGON** including prices and specifications of Manual- and Electric-Starter Models, and "Off-Season" Savings now in effect. There is no obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

To: **COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS**, Dept. 2023N
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491

Honey, Garlic and Vinegar Better Than Prescription Drugs?

(SPECIAL) We know that ancient civilizations relied on their healing power for a wide variety of ailments. In fact, honey was so prized by the Romans for its medicinal properties that it was used instead of gold to pay taxes. Egyptian doctors believed garlic was the ultimate cure-all. And vinegar has been used for everything from arthritis to obesity for over 7000 years.

Today doctors and researchers hail the healing abilities of honey, garlic and vinegar as much more than folklore. Hundreds of scientific studies have been conducted on this dream team of healers. The results are conclusive on their amazing power to prevent and cure many common health problems.

These studies prove that this trio from nature's pharmacy can help reduce blood pressure, lower cholesterol, improve circulation, lower blood sugar levels and help fight cancer. Scientific evidence also indicates that they can be of medicinal value in the treatment of: arthritis, athlete's foot, bronchitis, burns, colds and flu, cold sores, constipation, cramps, diarrhea, eczema, earaches, fatigue, fungus, heart problems, muscle aches, prostatitis, psoriasis, rheumatism, ringworm, sinus congestion, sore throat, urinary infections, virus and yeast infections and more.

A new Doctor's book called *Honey, Garlic & Vinegar Home Remedies* is now available to the

general public. It shows you exactly how to make hundreds of remedies using honey, garlic and vinegar separately and in unique combinations. Each preparation is carefully described along with the health condition for which it is formulated.

Learn how to prepare ointments, tonics, lotions, poultices, syrups and compresses in your own kitchen. Whip up a batch to treat:

- **ARTHRITIS:** Doctor reports that this remedy helps relieve the pain with no side effects
- **AGE SPOTS:** Watch them fade with this mixture
- **CORNS & CALLOUSES:** Get rid of them fast with this natural method
- **HANGOVER:** Feel like your old self in no time
- **HEADACHE:** Enjoy fast relief without drugs
- **HEMORRHOIDS:** Don't suffer another day without this proven recipe
- **LEG CRAMPS:** Try this simple way to quick relief
- **MUSCLE ACHEs:** Just mix up a batch of this and rub it on
- **STINGS & BITES:** Medical journals recommend this remedy to reduce pain and swelling fast
- **STOMACH PROBLEMS:** This remedy calms upset stomach and is noted in medical journals for ulcers
- **TOOTHACHE:** This remedy gives instant relief

until you can get to the dentist

• **WEIGHT LOSS:** Secret remedy spuds fat burn and flushes stubborn fat from hiding places

Discover all these health tips and more. You'll find: *Dozens of easy-to-make beauty preparations for hair and skin, including a wrinkle smoother that really works. *Hundreds of delicious recipes using these healing super foods. *Over 100 money-saving cleaning compounds to keep your home, car and clothing sparkling.

Right now, as part of a special introductory offer, you can receive a special press run of the Doctor's book *Honey, Garlic & Vinegar Home Remedies* for only \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. You must be completely satisfied, or simply return it in 90 days for a **full refund — no questions asked.**

HERE'S HOW TO ORDER: Simply print your name and address and the word "Remedies" on a piece of paper and mail it along with a check or money order for only \$9.95 to: THE LEADER CO., INC., Publishing Division, Dept. HG421, P.O. Box 8347, Canton, Ohio 44711. (Make checks payable to The Leader Co., Inc.) VISA or MasterCard send card number and expiration date. Act now. Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

©1996 The Leader Co., Inc.

PRAISE

Continued from page 16

language Joe will be far more excited to hear.

The third step is to limit praise to tiny doses because there can be too much of this good thing. "Feedback of any kind has to be limited in quantity. We can absorb only so much at a sitting," explains McCarty.

"Research tells us," McCarty adds, "100 small praises a minute long are millions of times more effective in motivating and lifting morale than is one big praising 100 minutes long. Frequent, regular praise is the route to lasting results."

You're following all the rules but somehow your messages don't seem to be getting through? "Often we dismiss the praise we get," warns Rosenblum. That's because praise commonly is manipulative—maybe the last time Jim got an earful of it was just before he was asked to volunteer to take over a major project. The way to jump this hurdle, says Rosenblum, is to plainly say "I don't think you heard me," then offer another round of commendations.

Is effective praising sounding harder and harder? "Practice is how we get better at it," says Hyler Bracey, president of the Atlanta Consulting Group and a boss who at one time was nicknamed "Highly Abrasive" by his workers because of his sharp tongue. When Bracey heard about the power of praise, he resolved to give it a shot. He found that, good intentions or not, praises weren't rolling off his tongue because old habits die hard. Bracey didn't quit, though.

Instead, he tucked five pieces of metal in a jacket pocket: "Each day I set out to give five pieces of positive feedback. With each one, I'd move a piece of metal to another pocket." Some days, he admits, there was a rush of praising at the end of the day, but over time the new habit took hold. "It may take 30 days to change your old habits—that's the norm—but with practice you'll get good at it," Bracey assures.

Will there be changes in those around you? As praising becomes second-nature to you, Bracey says "you can see the difference—you'll see much more energy and enthusiasm. Praise truly works. Try it and you'll see"—even if you too have to start out by keeping a handful of metal in your pocket. □

WONDERFUL LIFE

Continued from page 21

that underneath it was a swimming pool, Capra said, "I've got to use it."

The script was altered to include one of George's rivals at the dance pulling a switch that retracts the floor. George and Mary dance on, unaware that the dance floor is going to sit the rest of this one out. The scene ends with the two tumbling into the water, followed by nearly everyone present including the school principal.

While the film steadily wins new fans, some members of the psychiatric community grouse. An article in the *American Journal of Psychoanalysis* recently declared that Stewart portrays Bailey as a "supremely divided neurotic" plagued by "incompatible longings." Also, Freudian theorists critique Bailey's relationship with his father, from whom he uneasily inherits the job of running the building and loan association.

"George had a particularly bad case of 'conflicted identification with the father,'" says New York City psychiatrist Harvey Greenberg. And family therapists worry that Bailey is simply an "enabler" and "co-dependent" who covers up for his Uncle Billy's alcoholism.

"He didn't see that Uncle Billy's drinking impinged on other people. That's when acceptance isn't healthy," observes California psychologist Lillie Friedland.

In spite of such modern criticism, most viewers would agree with Julian Myers, a former story analyst at Columbia Pictures who recommended Stem's story to his employers only to have them turn it down. Myers says: "Let psychologists and others analyze this property. It was written during the pain and depression of early World War II. I believe Stem created all the characters and situations only to provide the setting for his theme: 'Don't despair. Your life has value. You have made the world better.' That was his Christmas message. May we all be motivated by it." □

**BUY FROM
NATIONAL EMBLEM
SALES**

YOUR PURCHASES AID
AMERICAN LEGION
PROGRAMS



MR. VETERAN

Continued from page 23

tion the discipline and other skills learned from military service. The better quality we have in the military the better citizens we are going to have when they return to the civilian ranks.

Q. Do you think the Montgomery GI Bill has resulted in increased military recruiting?

A. The military seems to like it very much, and it gives recruiters a tool to attract higher quality young men and women. It's also the reason many of our service members re-enlist.

Q. Is there any issue that stands out as particularly challenging as you sat at the helm and as a member of the House Veterans' Affairs committee?

A. There are several issues that stand out. First, dealing fairly with veterans affected by their exposure to ionizing radiation (in nuclear testing) and Agent Orange. We knew something was harming the health of veterans who fit into these categories. I would like to think we have made major progress in compensating veterans. We're now seeing things such as prostate cancer that appear to be linked to exposure to Agent Orange.

Then there are the problems now faced by Persian Gulf veterans who are suffering from Gulf War Syndrome. It was our idea that if an individual is sick, even though we may not have all the scientific information available, that these veterans receive disability compensation on a temporary basis, at least until we get some more solid answers.

Also, I think the VA is now taking steps to deal with the problems of homeless veterans. It hasn't always been that way, but I see more cooperation between the VA and other agencies such as the Department of Labor. Jesse [VA Secretary Jesse Brown] and Preston Taylor, assistant secretary of DoL's Veterans Employment and Training Service, are doing things that get veterans into meaningful jobs. More important, homeless veterans are being given a sense of purpose.

Q. Most people view the VA primarily as a deliverer of health-care services for vets. What new direc-

tions is the VA health-care system taking or should it be taking?

A. We're dealing with eligibility reform and trying to expand the system so that it provides services more on an outpatient basis. Since 1981, Congress has increased funding for VA medical programs, averaging 4 percent to 6 percent increases each year. Probably needs to be closer to 10 percent, but at least funding hasn't gone in the opposite direction.

While the VA system may be heading in the direction of providing more outpatient care and services, VA does appear to be honoring its pledge to maintain its important specialized programs such as spinal cord injury units. In addition to at least continuing those programs, I think it's important that VA at least maintain its research role. I've always been a strong supporter of VA medical research, and hopefully Congress will support funding to expand the size of its research effort. The VA has a long history in being a leader in research, yet the public doesn't know about it.

Q. Health care for all veterans and their families is the thrust of the GI Bill of Health that was drafted and is being pitched by The American Legion. Have you had a chance to review this proposal? (*Two days after the interview, the GI Bill of Health was introduced in the House as HR 3950.*)

A. Yes, I have looked at it, and I like everything contained in the plan. But this is Congress, and you have to be realistic about what can be done. I believe the proposal to allow veterans to use their Medicare and Medicaid and other similar programs to reimburse the VA for care given to veterans is a good idea. Two years ago when I was chairman, I discussed a similar approach before a House (Medicare) subcommittee, and they about laughed me out of the room. But the idea of reimbursing the VA does make good sense, and some of my colleagues agree. I'm for any reasonable plan that helps the veteran and makes life better for him and her.

I know The American Legion has always seemed to take the lead on issues like improving health care. Something I believe most folks aren't aware of is that the Legion was the creator and pusher of the GI Bill of 1944. That bill changed lives.

Q. In 1995, you joined with New York Republican Representative Gerald Solomon to introduce the

Flag Protection Amendment in the House. It passed in your chamber quite handily but was defeated in the Senate later in the year. Although you won't be around to cast your vote the next time the amendment comes up for a vote, do you have any particular feeling on the direction this measure may take if it's introduced in the 105th Congress in 1997.

A. I think the key is the Senate. Get those three or four votes that are needed and you'll have the amendment. [*Two-thirds of the Senate, 67 votes, are needed to pass a constitutional amendment.*] I know a lot of people were disappointed with the outcome, but you just got to keep plugging away. The American people want their flag protected, and the amendment is the only way to do it.

Q. What will it be like to return to Mississippi in a few days—a time when candidates are stumping for office—and not be a part of the campaigning? Will you miss it?

A. It will be a little different, and I've sort of adjusted to the idea I won't be campaigning. I still think about the concerns of the people who

sent me here to represent them, and I'm not going to quit representing them until the day I leave office.

Q. What do you think you would like to be best remembered for?

A. That I tried and had some small positive effect on veterans' issues. When I came to Congress in 1966, that was my goal, and it hasn't changed.

Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery was honored for his long-time service on Capitol Hill and to his fellow veterans at last September's American Legion National Convention in Salt Lake City where he was presented the Distinguished Service Medal. □

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded Life Memberships by their Posts.

Life Membership notices must be submitted on official forms which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Life Memberships, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

Carlton Hughes (1996) Post 72 Warrenton, Va.
Richard W. Lindsay (1996) Post 432 Port Jefferson Station, N.Y.

Roy Bertelli (1993) Post 32 Springfield, Ill.
George G. Currie (1996) Post 24 Hattiesburg, Miss.
Ballenger E. Charles, Newton Bryant, Vernon A. Dermont, and Clifford Griffin (1996) Post 241 Sneads, Fla.



The Big River instructional package includes Hohner's Big River harmonica and case, a 60-minute instructional cassette and how-to booklet—All that's needed to learn to play the harmonica quickly and easily. Only \$19.95 plus \$2.50 postage and handling.

CA, WA & VA residents add sales tax. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

Please send me _____ Hohner instructional package(s) at \$22.45 (\$19.95 plus \$2.50 Postage & Handling). Enclosed is my: Check Money Order Mastercard VISA

Acct. No. _____ Exp. Date. _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Melody By Mail, P.O. Box 830, Glen Allen, VA 23060 • MBM Guarantees Your Satisfaction Or Your Money Back (AML12/96)

TIN CAN

Continued from page 25

half-century later as they visit their ship, now permanently berthed with the *USS Constitution* in Charlestown Navy Yard, a Boston National Historical Park.

Over 300,000 people visit the *Cassin Young* every year. For most it might be just a ship, but to those who lived on her, she was a floating rite of passage to manhood. The ship is a monument to their courage, to the long hours and day-to-day hardships they endured to serve and protect America's fleet.

Many of the *Cassin Young*'s crew were just teenagers when the destroyer was commissioned on Dec. 31, 1943. When the vessel was assigned to the Central Pacific, the boys set a course for manhood.

"We grew up in hurry. This would have normally been your college," says Marrs, now 71, from his home in La Mirada, Calif.

Life aboard a World War II destroyer was no *South Pacific*. The *Cassin Young* spent 41 weeks out of 52 at sea in its busiest year. The work days were 10 to 12 hours long. The men often went six weeks without seeing land, and shore liberty consisted of a few hours of softball and warm khaki beer (it came in olive drab cans).

At sea, nothing short of an iron stomach could take a destroyer's motion. Fletchers could list 45 degrees off keel. As retired Lt. Eugene Sevensma describes it, the motion of a destroyer at sea is not just up and down, but more like a corkscrew churning through the water.

Sevensma, now 74, was the ship's doctor and photographer. "The East Philippine Sea is rough all the time," he says. "You'd steam toward Luzon at top speed: Pound! Bang! Bang! Bang! all night long, hitting those waves. Our [carrier] planes would be launched at dawn, and we'd immediately turn the task force around to get away from land-based planes. This happened night after night after night. We just took this beating."

But the typhoon of Dec. 18, 1944, made the choppy seas of the nightly raids seem calm. On the night the typhoon reached its full pitch, the sea made the steel ships its sport, nearly scuttling Adm. William "Bull" Halsey's career.

Marrs recalls logging the inclinometer reading at 46 degrees as the ship rolled in 20- to 25-foot waves. Salt spray and rain driven by 100-mph winds left any skin exposed on deck covered with red welts.

Former Lt. j.g. Paul Smucker, now chairman of the executive committee of The J.M. Smucker Co., remembers being on the *Cassin Young*'s bridge, trying to stay on course when tragedy struck the fleet.

As a wall of water smashed over the pilot house, young ensign Smucker called out, "Right rudder 10 degrees!"

"Right rudder 10 degrees." Overholt repeated to the helmsman as he turned the wheel.

Smucker glanced at 15 blips on the radar scope, the destroyers advancing in a circle around the other ships. When he looked again he noticed one blip had disappeared.

"There's one less blip! How come?"

The duty officer snapped, "We just lost a ship!"

Two more blips disappeared as Smucker watched. Three destroyers, 200 carrier planes and 790 men sank during that grim night a half-century ago.

WHEN they weren't fighting the elements or the enemy on the high seas or climbing trees for coconuts on the islet of Mog Mog, the shipmates broke out their chisels to chip rust off the hull, played mail carrier for the other ships, fired star shells to illuminate the enemy or rescued downed pilots and traded them for ice cream. Their most important task was defending the Third and Fifth fleets under Adms. Halsey and Raymond Spruance against Japanese kamikaze attacks.

Enemy planes first damaged the *Cassin Young* at dusk on Oct. 14, 1944. It was the preamble to the Battle of Leyte Gulf, history's greatest naval battle and the ruination of the Japanese navy.

Former Petty Officer 3rd Class James O'Hara manned the port after 40mm guns during the battle. O'Hara, now 70 and living in Oak Park, Ill., tells his story—his wife claims it is his favorite subject—with deep, sea-blue eyes and white hair combed over neat as a tightly sealed sail.

"We were off battle stations and heading down to the mess hall when torpedo bombers came in at water level." The twin-engine Betty bombers came in so low off the starboard quarter that their props were kicking up

spray.

"By the time we got to general quarters they were pretty close," O'Hara saw the plane's waist gunner through a canopy, the machine guns blinking. He felt it had become a one-on-one war. He says simply, "I shot him down."

None of the dozen Japanese planes made it past the destroyers.

Ten days later, the light carrier *USS Princeton* was hit with a 550-pound bomb and engulfed in flames. The *Cassin Young*, along with three other destroyers and two cruisers, was ordered to help fight the fires. The destroyer hoses were not doing the job, so the cruiser *USS Birmingham* was ordered to come up alongside instead.

It appeared the flattop was going to be saved when a tremendous explosion in the aft torpedo magazine ripped off her stern and shoved the *Birmingham* sideways. A shower of fire and debris killed 108 on the *Princeton*, 229 on the *Birmingham* and wounded more than 400.

"If we were where we were going to be, we would have been blown right out of the water," O'Hara recalls, his eyes turning a paler shade of blue.

Fire controlman Sumner Wheeler was on the destroyer's bridge. Wheeler, now 72, describes the post-disaster pandemonium in the water. "We were nosing into sharks and empty cartridges. The executive officer got a rifle and fired at the sharks. Then we put a boat in the water and picked up quite a few people."

Adds Marrs, who was in the whaleboat that helped save over 120 men in a half hour, "Picking up survivors was the best feeling I had in the Navy." Later, when the *Cassin Young* pulled up alongside the *Birmingham* to pass over medical supplies, Marrs saw what had happened to those who didn't make it. "There were bodies all over the deck and superstructure. There was blood literally running on the deck."

The *Cassin Young* managed to stay afloat through the next eight months of kamikaze attacks, chalking up kills on her conning tower scoreboard along the way. After World War II, she served in the Korean War and was finally decommissioned in 1960. In 1986 she was designated a National Historical Landmark.

Three years ago, for the 50th anniversary of the ship's commissioning, old hands from all corners of the nation gathered at the Charlestown Navy Yard to revisit the tin can. They

stood under 5-inch guns now plugged and sealed. As they gripped the rails, they noticed six of the seven 20mm guns had been removed. Through the cobweb-like viewfinder of the remaining gun, the skies were clear.

Wheeler, president of the *Cassin Young Association*, attends most of the reunions, which are held every two to three years. "Memories come back," he says. "You're 18 or 19 again, and with people you like and love."

"It's a part of your life that you're glad you served, but you just prefer to be quiet," says Smucker, now 75 and residing and working in Orrville, Ohio. "When we went back on the 50th, we just sort of looked at each other and shook hands. It was not a time to jump up and down for joy. It was a time just to reminisce the fact that we're still walking around."

Thinking back over the years that the tin can sailors fought through, thinking of the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, Smucker says, "If you had to go to war, there wasn't any question of the motivation. Everybody felt strongly they were doing the best thing. I never saw anybody chicken out or anything like that, which is unbelievable."

"Or maybe it is believable. It's a great country to fight for." □

COMRADES IN DISTRESS

Readers who can help these veterans are urged to write a witness letter, including the CID number. Send the letter to CIO, The American Legion Magazine, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46203.

Notices are published only at the request of American Legion Service Officers representing claimants using Search for Witness Forms available from Legion Department Service Officers.

Army Co. E, 1st Bn., 4th Platoon, Ft. Knox, KY. James Edward Dargent seeks witnesses to verify that he was beaten by Staff Sgt. Stander because of a captain belt switch prank committed by Pvt. Turner. CID #1332.

Co. C, 136th Inf Tng Bn, 34th Inf Tng Reg (Rifle), Paul E. Panek seeks witnesses to verify that he was involved with secret mustard gas testing while stationed at Camp Livingston, La. (1945). CID #1349.

TAPS

Taps notices are limited to only those Legionnaires who have held high National or Department offices. We regret that we cannot extend the honor to all members.

Jesse Nicolas Palmer, PR, Nat'l. Rehabilitation Comm. Advisory Bd Member (1965-1968), Dept. Cmdr. (1993-1995), Dep. Athletes Chm. (1987-1992).

Thomas A. Goad, Jr., Nat'l. American Legion Council (1980-1981, 1993-1994), Nat'l. American Legion Council (1981-1982), National Security Council Vice Chm. (1987-1991), Nat'l. Cemetery Comm. (1991-1993), Nat'l. Legislative Council (1993-1994), Nat'l. Convention Comm. (1994-1996).

Wilford J. Heubner, IA, NEC (1995-1996), NEC Alter-nate (1991-1995), American Legion Magazine Liaison (1995-1996), Dept. Cmdr. (1989-1990), Dept. Vice Cmdr. (1984-1985), Dept. Finance Chm. (1992-1993).

MIRACLE

Continued from page 30

go, and he knew all would be well.

In an abrupt scene shift, the Nativity display vanished into the battle's smoky convulsions. The two Americans headed for the wall. The small arms fire was inaccurate and less intense.

Horsley and Kunkle reached the wall, eight inches of concrete block laid four feet high and topped with barbed wire.

Because Horsley had participated in the planning, he knew American units would be outside. The problem would be to reach them without being mistaken for Panamanians. They devised a simple plan as the AC-130 took out Building 26 two doors away.

Kunkle threw his survival vest over the barbed wire, and they were reaching for the top when they froze at the sound of footsteps on the other side of the hedge. "It's a patrol," Horsley thought, dropping to the ground. Again, and suddenly, the outlook was dark: two guys, both hurt, armed only pistols, with their backs to a real wall, against a Panamanian patrol.

The hedge parted, and a Panamanian soldier looked through. Believing him to be a point man, Horsley put his pistol to the man's forehead. The Panamanian threw up his hands and said in Spanish, "Bastante," "I've had enough! ... I want out!" The soldier told them that Noriega was gone, that all the soldier's friends were dead and that this soldier wanted out.

The prisoner raised the odds against them. Going over the wall with him would increase their chances of being mistaken for the enemy. Behind them, the AC-130 was coming to the end of its list.

Since Kunkle was relatively unhurt and had one tube of his night-vision goggles, Horsley sent him over the wall for help. By the time Kunkle was over, American loudspeakers were calling in Spanish for the Panamanians to surrender. Kunkle, who didn't understand Spanish, thought the loudspeakers were Panamanian and that he and Horsley were surrounded. He returned to the wall. Horsley explained, and again Kunkle moved out.

Horsley reached the Americans, but no one would return with him. Making his way back, he called out, "Horsley, it's OK, come on over." Relieved, Horsley sent the Panamanian first. With

the prisoner half over, Horsley heard the AC-130 returning and realized what was about to happen. The prisoner froze at the top. The AC-130 fired, half a second later the 105mm round exploded in the building behind them. With one last adrenaline surge, Horsley went over the wall.

They helped the prisoner down and reported to the American unit, a little more than two hours since their crash.

Horsley was becoming increasingly helpless; he and Kunkle waited three hours to be moved to the American High School, the casualty collection point. There, Kunkle found a working telephone and called their unit; in minutes, a Black Hawk helicopter from the 160th flew in and lifted them back to base. By 10 a.m., 24 hours after the operation became a "go," Horsley was on a medevac plane headed for Christ-mas with his family.

Today, the Comandancia, wall and buildings are gone. Only a monument recalls a battle of which the neighborhood retains no trace. Life is as it was when Horsley and his family strolled the tree-lined streets. Friends savor sunsets; the restaurant down the street is a favorite with American families.

And Horsley and Kunkle cherish a Christmas miracle. □

The amazing walk-behind brush cutter!

The DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER

CLEAR & MAINTAINS meadows, pastures, woodlots, wooded and rough non-lawn areas with ease. CUTS tall grass, weeds, brambles, tough brush and saplings up to 1" thick.

CHOPS/MULCHES most everything it cuts. Leaves NO TANGLE of brush to pick up like hand-held brushcutters and sicklebar mowers.

Perfect for low-maintenance wildflower meadows, European-style woodlots, walking paths, or any area you only want to mow once a month or once a season!

- Self-Propelled
- Mows up to 1/2 acre per hour!
- Optional Electric Starting
- 8 HP



TOLL FREE
1(800) 435-4664

SPECIAL SAVINGS NOW IN EFFECT!

Please mail this coupon TODAY for complete FREE DETAILS of the DR® FIELD and BRUSH MOWER including prices, specifications of Manual & ELECTRIC-STARTING Models, and "Off-Season" Savings now in effect.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
To: COUNTRY HOME PRODUCTS*, Dept. 2023F
Meigs Road, P.O. Box 25, Vergennes, VT 05491

© 1996 CHP Inc.

IMPOTENCE IS TREATABLE

"Now every
impotent man
can afford this
device with
Medicare's
co-pay
as low as \$39.99"

Foster Brooks
TV & Movie Star

VACUUM THERAPY

MEDICARE APPROVED
Medicare assignment accepted
WE ACCEPT ALL PRESCRIPTIONS
FOR FREE BROCHURE CALL TOLL FREE
1-800-221-6603

2300 Plantation Drive
Louisville, KY 40295-1928

ENCORE

"YEAR END CLOSEOUT"

- Financing Available!
- Low Monthly Payments!

Save on
Select Models
25-36 • 30-48
40-62 • 50-120

STEELMASTER®



SAVE UP TO 50%

Buy factory direct! • Build it yourself!
American Owned • American Built
CALL TODAY!

1-800-888-4606

"Display Your Medals!"



"Send \$2.00 Today for NEW 32 Page COLOR Catalog with Beautiful Full Color MEDAL CHART"

WRITE: MEDALS OF AMERICA
1929AL Fairview RD., Fountain Inn
S.C. 29644 Telephone 1-864-862-6425
VISIT US @ [HTTP://WWW.USMEDALS.COM](http://WWW.USMEDALS.COM)

Prostate Cancer
If you or a friend or family member are facing prostate cancer, you do have options. For FREE information call Theragenics Cancer Information Center,
1-800-458-4372

Loose Dentures?

PERMA SOFT II
The Professional Denture Reliner
Material. Lasts up to 2 years
Tightens, Cushions, Stops Gums
Shrinkage, ALL just ONE APPLICATION!
For FREE Brochure Write: PERMA LABORATORIES
P.O. Box 134-L Millersburg, Ohio 44654

HEARING AIDS UP TO 60% SAVINGS



30-DAY
TRIAL

TRY
BEFORE
YOU BUY

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!

- ALL MAKES & MODELS
- TERMS ARRANGED
- 30 YRS. EXPERIENCE
- ALL MAKE REPAIRS
- CUSTOM INSTRUMENT SPECIALISTS

FOR FREE INFORMATION CALL:

1-800-323-1212

We're the oldest, biggest and best!

LLOYD'S, DEPT. AL BOX 1645, ROCKFORD, IL 61110

New Issue Limited Offer!
1996 SILVER EAGLES



\$ 6.95
only **6 ea.**

When Purchasing 20 coins or more

For a limited time, Eastern
Numismatics is offering the new
1996 American Silver Eagle. The purchase price is \$6.95 per
coin. Each coin is Brilliant Uncirculated and contains One Oz.
of .999 Fine Silver. Protective presentation holders are
available for \$1.00 each. Add \$1.00 for additional \$1.00 coins.

1 Coin \$7.49 + \$1.00 P&H (\$ Total \$8.49)
10 Coins \$72.50 + \$2.50 P&H (\$ Total \$75.00)
20 Coin roll in Original U.S. Mint tube with Treasury Seal
for \$13.99 + \$5.00 P&H (\$ Total \$14.99)

I understand I may charge my coins if my minimum
order is \$50.00 or more. Prices subject to change
without notice. We reserve the right to limit quantity.

Order Toll Free **800-835-0008**

EasternNumismatics, #62 Franklin Ave., Garden City, NY 11530
New York State residents add sales tax. Dept. AL

CABLE TV Converters Accessories

Renting from your
Cable Company is
like money down the
"Tube!"



YOU NOW HAVE A
CHOICE... save
money by purchasing
your cable

equipment. Access
all premium and basic channels. We offer the
lowest prices on
all major brand names including Zenith, Jerrold,
Scientific Atlanta, Tocom, and Pioneer. FREE
30 day trial period and 1 year warranty.
So, if you are tired of the rising cost of
cable TV...

Call for your free catalog today

Add-on Cable Company

800/334-8475

MasterCard • VISA • AMX • COD

FREE Color Catalog! Over 80 Products **1-800-800-FVVM**

Wall hats, t-shirts, pins,
prints, & much more!



Friends of the
Vietnam Veterans
Memorial

4200 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Suite 106 • Box 108
Washington, DC 20016
Non-profit, proceeds support
free programs which help
families and veterans.

AIR RIFLE SPECIALS

FREE CATALOG

\$69.95

Tech Force 38D • 900 FPS • FREE SCOPE

Tech Force 38G • 900 FPS • \$59.95

EXCELLENT QUALITY • 60 DAY GUARANTEE
Hardwood Stock • Rifled Barrel • 17 Cal • Single Cock
Add \$10 S/H • KY IN & OH add sales tax.

COMPASSECO, INC.

151-AL Atkinson, Bardstown, KY 40004

1-800-726-1696

MOVING?



**northAmerican Offers
Moving Discount
SAVE 40%
On Your Next
Interstate Move!**

North American Van Lines offers American Legion members a 40% discount on interstate moves. Let North American, the world's largest professional mover, transport your household goods with moving services to meet every need and budget. In addition to saving 40%, you will receive up to \$50,000 coverage on your household goods at no charge.

For more information or a free estimate, call Andy Mento at Quality Movers/North American Van Lines.

1-800-524-5533 EXT. 29

Celebrate July 4th & All Events
CARBIDE CANNON
BIG BANG! \$119.95

Mammoth Cannon shoot with terrific BANG! Shoot a bang every time in special events. Uses powdered carbonite ammo. Hundreds of shots for few cents. All metal construction with large, rugged cast iron wheels. Made from brass and steel. Includes mounting. Author's hand-crafted design. Painted decor when not in use. Made in USA to last a lifetime. Available in 3 sizes: 9" cannon, \$49.95 postpaid; 17" cannon, \$89.95 postpaid; 25" cannon (shown here) with rapid firing and automatic loading. Carried by hand and about 100 lbs. Shipping cost extra \$15.00. Send check, money order or call Visa, MasterCard accepted by mail or phone. Give card number & expiration. Money-back guarantee. Send for FREE CATALOG!

The Conestoga Co., Inc., Dept AL, P.O. Box 405, Bethlehem, PA 18016
★ Call 1-800-987-BANG ★

CALL FOR FREE VIDEO!

See how Rascal independence will improve your life. Now easier to afford than ever...

- Up to \$400 OFF and 3 Free Gifts with Purchase
- No Money Down (qualified applicants only)
- Up to 5-year limited warranty
- Medicare and Private Insurance Reimbursable - up to 100% if you qualify
- Made-in-America Quality

1 800 662-4548

Ext. 203 Ask about a free in-home test ride.

RHODES HEARING FREE CATALOG!

**MINI-CANAL
SAVE HUNDREDS!
45 DAY TRIAL!**



FROM \$199 UP

Call or Write:
RHODES HEARING
201R11 Ohio St.,
Brookport, IL 62910
1-800-320-3300 EXT R11

MILITARY PATCHES Catalog



Choose From 5000
Patches • Pins
Medals • Decals
Books • Planes • etc
Printed in Color

Order Your Catalog Today!

Send \$4.50 post-paid (\$10.00 overseas) to
(2% Rebate on 1st Order) allow 4 wks for Cat. Del.
BattleZone Ltd.

P.O. Box 266LA, Towaco, NJ 07082
<http://www.military-patches.com>



METAL WATCHBAND CALENDARS

Used all day, every day. Best made in U.S. Easy to read. Lrg. bold print. Fits easily on all men's watchbands. Silver one side, gold other. Sundays, Holidays in red. 100% metal. 12 separate calendars in gift wallet. Start any month. 1 set \$5.00 ppd. 3 sets \$13.50. 5 sets \$21.25. Great gift. Add 7 3/4% tax in CA. Immediate delivery guaranteed.

GIFTS TO GO, DEPT. 32

P.O. BOX 55607, RIVERSIDE, CA 92517-0607

Replacement Medals

Veterans Replace all
your medals now. We
have Regular Size,
Mins, Standard Box
Pins & Insignia.
EVERYTHING GUARANTEED
CREDIT CARDS WELCOME!



Send \$1.00 for Catalog
Pieces of History
P.O. Box 4470 Dept. AL
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
Phone: (602)488-1377
Fax: (602)488-1316

EnhancSit® ...a simple, universal solution

**only
\$249.00
plus S&H**
Turn Your Favorite
Recliner or Chair
Into a LIFT CHAIR



- ◆ Medicare approved (if you qualify)
- ◆ Priced within Medicare allowance
- ◆ Patented EnhancSit® simply attaches to bottom of your recliner in minutes
- ◆ Lifts 300 lbs. plus chair
- ◆ Lifetime warranty on steel frame
- ◆ Satisfaction guaranteed



To order Call TOLL FREE:

1-800-253-3410

To order by mail send check or money order to:

TAMCO PRODUCTS

1311 S. Military Trail

Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

CABLE TV BOXES



**FREE Trial
FREE Catalog**

We Beat Any Price !!

Big Sale

DEALERS WANTED EARN EXTRA \$\$\$

Please have Model number used in your area when calling

1-800-535-1843 9-6 CST
9 AM EST
SAT 10-2
CNC Concepts Inc Box 49503-AL Minneapolis, MN 55449

HAT PINS - PATCHES - FLAGS
600+ MILITARY DESIGNS

FREE 24 Page ILLUS. CATALOG
WE DO CUSTOM WORK
Dealer Inquiries Welcome

HOOVER'S MFG. CO.

P.O. Box 547 AL

PERU, IL 61354

(815) 223-1159 Ask for David

BEER MUGS



HAT PINS - PATCHES - FLAGS

600+ MILITARY DESIGNS

FREE 24 Page ILLUS. CATALOG

WE DO CUSTOM WORK

Dealer Inquiries Welcome

HOOVER'S MFG. CO.

P.O. Box 547 AL

PERU, IL 61354

(815) 223-1159 Ask for David

2 SEAT BIKE

Drives Like a Car!

Easy to Pedal
Multi Speed
Street Legal
Cargo Carrier
1, 2 & 4 Seater
Free Literature
RHODES CAR
1-500-673-9701 Ext. 3386

CLASSIFIED

SEND ADVERTISING COPY AND REMITTANCE TO:

Eileen Hennessy
The American Legion Magazine
c/o Fox Associates, Inc.
116 W. Kinzie Street
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 644-3888
FAX (312) 644-8718

All classified advertising is payable in advance by check or money order. Please make remittance payable to "The American Legion Magazine." RATES: \$19 per word. Count street addresses and box numbers as two words; all city, state and zip codes as three words. CIRCULATION: 2,800,000 per month. DEADLINE: Advertising copy must be received 60 days before cover date of issue desired. All advertisements are accepted at the discretion of the publisher.

ARROWHEADS/INDIAN CRAFTS

SAMPLE ARROWHEAD PLUS CATALOG \$3. Westco, Box 778-1, Colfax, CA 95713.

BOOKS & MAGAZINES

DO YOU HAVE A BOOK TO PUBLISH? Established cooperative publisher can help. Call Pentland Press, Inc., (800) 948-2786.

ATTENTION. Help grandchildren before it's needed. Be informed. DRUG TALK book, \$10 ppd. Superior Publishing, 23521 12th Ave., Cadott, WI 54727.

ALCAN TRAILBLAZERS is history! Authentic, first person accounts. Illustrated. Autographed. Last Chance! Send \$14. 648th Memorial Fund, Sid Navratil, 1129 Tamarack Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15237.

CASINO SUPPLIES/PLAYING CARDS

FREE CATALOG, (800) 233-0828.

SLOT MACHINES, (614) 877-8888.

COATS OF ARMS

COATS OF ARMS, 500,000 names, 32 countries. Free catalog. The Ship's Chandler, Dept. L, Wilmington, VT 05363, (305) 375-9469.

WINE & BEER MAKING

WINEMAKERS-BEERMAKERS. Free catalog. Kraus, Box 7850-LM, Independence, MO 64054, (816) 254-0242.

BEST DEALER PRICING!

30 DAY FREE TRIAL!
CABLE DIRECT
CABLE TV
CONVERTERS • FILTERS

COPY RENTAL TAPES WITH OUR
VIDEO STABILIZERS

You can tune-in to your favorite
cable TV programming and
SAVE 50% on our
on premium CABLE TV EQUIPMENT.
FREE Cable TV Catalog. 1 YEAR WARRANTY

MODERN ELECTRONICS

1-800-906-6664
2125 S. 156TH CIRCLE • OMAHA, NE 68130

100%
MONEY BACK
GUARANTEE!

FREE

IN-HOME IMPOTENCE TEST!

You may not need a doctor for help!
Is it all in your head or is it physical?

**FIND OUT WITH THIS
SIMPLE & EFFECTIVE,
FREE HOME TEST KIT!**

1-800-475-3091
Male Pride • P.O. Box 740888 • Dallas, Tx 75248

60% MORE JUICE
FROM YOUR APPLES

The Secret is the "APPLE EATER" grinder which reduces fresh fruit to fine pulp in seconds. Steel grinder and will grind a box of whole apples in less than 15 minutes. Makes 2 to 3 quarts of juice per pound. Heavy, 1 1/2" wide screw and cast iron cross base. All hard wood construction. Four models. One single stage, one double stage, one triple stage and one tub. Completely assembled or low cost kit. Send \$1.00 or call 913-849-3103 for catalog

EXCLUSIVE FEATURE
THE APPLE EATER
GRINDS APPLES WITH EASE
SIMPLY TURN THE CRANK
TO SUCE THEM DOWN

HAPPY VALLEY
RANCH

16577 W327 DEPT A25
PAOLA, KS 66071

DISPATCH
Biweekly publication of The American Legion
news and views
Annual subscription (22 issues) \$15
Send your check or money order to:
The American Legion
P.O. Box 1055
Indianapolis, IN 46206

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of Publication: THE AMERICAN LEGION

2 Date of filing: September 24, 1996.

3. Frequency of issue: Monthly.

A. No. of issues published annually: 12.

b. Annual subscription price: \$3.00.

4. Location of known office of publication: 5561 W. 74th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46269-4184 (Marion County).

5. Location of the headquarters of general business offices of the publisher: 700 North Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

6. Names and addresses of publisher, editor and managing editor:

Publisher: Steve Salerno, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Editor: Joe P. Stuteville, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Managing Editor: Robert C. Imler, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

7. Owner (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, its name and address must be stated.)

The American Legion, 700 N. Pennsylvania St., P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206.

8. Known bondholders, mortgages, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: None.

9. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at special rates (Section 423.12, DMM only). The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes have not changed during preceding 12 months.

10. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average No. of Copies of Single Issue Published Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	Average Number of Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
A.Total No. of Copies Printed (Net Press Run)	2,823,147	2,806,214
B.Paid Circulation		
1.Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales.....	6,250	6,190
2. Mail subscriptions.....	2,803,009	2,785,947
C.Total Paid circulation (Sum of 10B1 and 10B2)	2,809,259	2,792,137
D.Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means. Samples, complimentary, and other free copies	4,559	5,227
E.Free distribution outside the mail (Carriers or other means)	2,800	2,800
F.Total Free distribution (Sum of D and E)	7,359	8,027
G.Total distribution (Sum of C and F)	2,816,618	2,800,164
H.Copies not distributed		
1.Office use, left-over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing.....	6,529	6,050
2.Returns from news agents	None	None
G.Total (Sum of E, F, I, and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)	2,823,147	2,806,214
I.I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. (Signed) <i>Joe P. Stuteville, Editor</i>		

PARTING SHOTS



Customer:

"Waiter, your
service is
miserable."

Waiter:

"How do you
know? You
haven't had
any yet!"

Family Un-ties

An out-of-towner visited with an old army buddy and hung around long enough to wear out his welcome. The army buddy said, "Don't you think your wife and kids are beginning to miss you?" The out-of-towner replied, "You're probably right. I'll send for them next week!"

Trust Bust

A young man asked his girlfriend's father for her hand in marriage. The father was very pleased and said, "Remember one thing, my boy. I'm entrusting you with the treasure of my life."

After the men had toasted the engagement, the young man decided to go home. As he opened the door, he saw that it had started to rain. The young man asked to borrow an umbrella. The father of the bride-to-be said, "Sorry. I don't trust anybody with my umbrella!"

Taxing Agenda

I don't understand the government. When I was a kid I walked two miles to school every day. Then the government taxed us for school buses. The bus got kids to school in five minutes. Then the government taxed us for a new gymnasium so the kids could get exercise.

Parting Shots jokes are courtesy of Milton Berle's Private Joke File of 10,000 jokes, available on computer disk for \$29.95, plus \$3 shipping and handling.

For ordering information, call 1-800-MILTIE-B.

Glare of Noon

The tour guide was late for every attraction. Mrs. Kleborn, a stickler for punctuality, kept up a steady barrage of complaints. They'd been a half-hour late for Hampton Court. They had been late for the Tower of London. The group arrived at Runnymede and the guide said, "On this very spot the historic Magna Carta was signed." One of the tourists asked, "When was it signed?" The guide answered, "1215." Mrs. Kleborn said, "I knew it! We missed it by 15 minutes!"

Foot Loose

Johnny: "Dad, don't you think it's time I stood on my own two feet?"

Dad: "Yes, I do."

Johnny: "I should face the world and handle my own problems."

Dad: "Of course."

Johnny: "I must make my own way."

Dad: "I agree."

Johnny: "Well, I can't do it on the allowance I get now!"

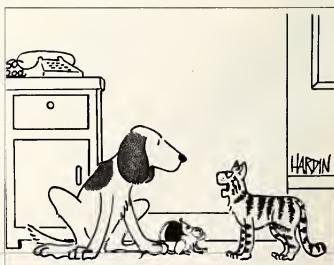
Appreciating Assets

Two stockbrokers meet in a cafe. While ordering drinks, one says, "Let's not talk shop tonight. Let's talk about women."

The other stockbroker says, "Fine. Common or preferred?"

Dead Pan

Two assassins are hired to kill a military tyrant. They study him and discover that every day at exactly noon he comes out on his patio for five minutes. The assassins set up across the street, get their gunsights adjusted, then sit down to wait. Noon comes but the dictator doesn't come out. A half hour goes by, but still no dictator. Finally, one assassin says to the other, "Gee, I hope nothing has happened to him!"



"Well, you can bet the union's going to hear about this!"

WINTER PROOF

New Customer Special:
ALL SIZES S to 4XL
ONE LOW PRICE!

Meet Haband's serious new coat
for the practical man:

**Extraordinary Protection
Extraordinary Value**

\$29⁹⁵

AMAZING!

With Protection like this,
WHY PAY \$300?!!

- Rugged Windproof, Waterproof Nylon Shell • Deep, Quilted Polyester Fiberfill Insulation
- Full Zipper Front with Double Seal Storm Flap • Zip-Thru Two-Way Cushion Collar — Wear it Up or Down! • 2 Big generous cargo/handwarmer pockets plus extra inside Magic Cling®-sealed security pocket

- Freedom-of-action swing shoulders
- Masculine Contrast Color deep chest styling
- Good long Seatwarmer length
- Adjustable drawstring waist
- Hidden elastic storm cuffs

All Weather Comfort!
Impressive High
Quality! Powerful
Good Looks!
ONLY \$29.95!

Order Now and
SAVE A FORTUNE!



Haband!
It's Value

100 Fairview Avenue
Prospect Park, NJ 07530



Grey/Charcoal

Imported

WINTER PROOF COAT \$29⁹⁵

2 for 57.50
3 for 84.95

Haband One Hundred Fairview Avenue, Prospect Park, NJ 07530

SIZES: S(34-36) M(38-40) L(42-44) XL(46-48)
NO EXTRA CHARGE FOR BIG MEN'S SIZES:
2XL(50-52) 3XL(64-66) 4XL(68-70)

<input type="checkbox"/> C	Brown/Khaki	WHAT SIZE?	HOW MANY?
<input type="checkbox"/> D	Grey/Charcoal		
<input type="checkbox"/> F	Navy/Burgundy		

Send me _____ coats. I enclose \$_____ purchase price, plus \$3.95 toward postage and insurance. Big Men's sizes please add \$5.95 NO EXTRA CHARGE!
 Check enclosed Discover Card Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp.: _____ / _____
 Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____
Mail Address _____ Apt. # _____
City & State _____ Zip _____

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of Purchase Price at Any Time!

For fastest possible service call 1-800-742-2263 Order 24 hours a day 7 days a week!

Flannel Lined WINTER SLACKS

19⁹⁵
per pair

**FREE
POSTAGE!**

Good Looking and Warm!

Shovel your driveway on a bitter cold morning, then drive straight to the office! Haband's impeccably tailored dress slacks do it all, thanks to these outstanding features:

- The same permanent press gabardine twill polyester as our regular Dress Slacks!
- 100% Double pre-shrunk, soft, warm cotton flannel lining thruout, stitched in to stay put!
- Four large no-hole pockets, two of them button-thru security back pockets!
- Unbreakable nylon zipper!
- No-Roll inner waistband with shirt grippers to keep you neat and trim!
- Razor sharp crease and hemmed bottoms!
- Extra comfortable gentleman's full cut!
- Plenty of sturdy belt loops!
- 100% home machine wash & dry easy care!

Toasty warm and comfortable as pajamas on the inside! Smartly tailored no wrinkle dress slacks on the outside! Still only \$19.95 a pair, and NOW —

NO POSTAGE CHARGES whatever if you order from this New Customer Special Offer. Hurry!



Imported

Haband!

100 Fairview Avenue
Prospect Park, NJ 07530



Flannel Lined Slacks **19^{95*}** 2 for 38.25
3 for 56.50
4 for 74.50

Haband 100 Fairview Avenue, Prospect Park, NJ 07530

WAISTS: 30 32 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

*BIG MEN'S TOO! Add \$3.00 per pair for: 46 48 50 52 54

INSEAMS: S(27-28) M(29-30) L(31-32) XL(33-34)

Send	7TK-01F	WHAT SIZE?	WHAT INSEAM?	HOW MANY?
pairs of slacks.	B TAN			
I enclose	C GREY			
\$	D BLACK			
purchase price, plus \$2.25 for postage & insurance. POSTAGE IS FREE ON THIS ORDER!	H BLUE HEATHER			

Send _____ pairs of slacks.
I enclose _____ \$.
purchase price, plus \$2.25 for postage & insurance. **POSTAGE IS FREE ON THIS ORDER!**

Check Discover Visa MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp.: _____ / _____
PLEASE PRINT:

Mr. _____
 Mrs. _____
 Ms. _____

Address _____

Apt. # _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed or Full Refund of Purchase Price at Any Time!



For fastest possible service call 1-800-742-2263 Order 24 hours a day, 7 days a week!